THE

DIVINING ROD:

ITS HISTORY, TRUTHFULNESS, AND PRACTICAL UTILITY

BY

JOHN MULLINS & SONS,

COLERNE,

BOX, WILTSHIRE.

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT.

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ONE SHILLING AND SIXPENCE.

N.v.o
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Yours truly,

JOHN MULLINS.

Yours truly,

JOSEPH MULLINS.

Yours truly,

H. W. MULLINS.

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INDEX.

	PAGE
John Mullins's Birth and Parentage	1
His first trial with the Dowsing Rod	2
Joseph and H. W. Mullins as Water-finders	3—6
The Dowsing Rod : Mr. E. Vaughan Jenkins on	7—13
TESTIMONIALS :—	
Captain H. Smith	13—15
Sir W. E. Welby Gregory, M.P.	15—18
James W. Baillie, Esq.	18
Lord Winchilsea	18—20
Water-finding on Lord Heytesbury's Estate in Wiltshire...	20—24
,, in Buckinghamshire	25—27
,, on Estate of H. Harben, Esq., in Sussex ...	28
,, on Earl of Jersey's Estate	28—29
,, on Duke of Rutland's Estate, Belvoir ...	29—30
,, at Buxton Hydropathic Establishment ...	30
,, H. D. Skrine, Esq., Claverton Manor, Bath	31
,, R. H. C. Nevill, Esq., Wellingore Hall, Grantham	31
,, H. W. Hoskins, Esq., North Perrott Manor, Somerset	31
,, Box Stone Quarries (G. Hancock, Esq.) ...	32
,, Batheaston, Messrs. Cooling and Sons ...	33
,, Colonel Wilson, Rauceby, Lincolnshire ...	33
,, Whitfield Estate, near Hereford... ...	34—36
,, by Lady Milbanke ; letter from her ladyship to Dr. Hutton, the geologist ...	36—40
,, on the Rocks Estate, Marshfield, by Messrs. Mullins	40—41
,, on Estate of H. N. Goddard, Esq., in Wiltshire	41

PAGE

Water-finding on the property of F. T. Mott, Esq., Charnwood Forest, Leicestershire... ... 41—42

,, at Box and Melksham (W. J. Brown, Esq., and Mr. Alfred Taylor) ... ... 42 - 44

,, on the Estate of Lord Lindsay, Uppingham Park, Stamford ... ... 44—45

,, Kingsdown Asylum, Box, and Corsham ... 45

,, on the Earl of Jersey's Estate in Oxfordshire. Letter from W. D. Little, Esq., Middleton Park, Bicester, Oxon ... ... 46—47

,, on Bathwick Estate and Captain A. K. Barlow's Estate in Essex ... ... 47—48

,, The Rectory, Finmere, Bucks 48

,, Charndon; Broomfield, Chelmsford; Kircassock, Lurgan 49

Letter from the Earl of Jersey 49

Discovery of the only Natural Seltzer in the Kingdom, on the Estate of the Right Hon. H. Chaplin, M.P., in Lincolnshire... 50

Water-finding at Wellingore Hall, Lincolnshire ... 50 - 51

,, on the Estate of Earl Beauchamp at Madresfield Court, Worcestershire ... 51 - 53

,, Steeple Aston, Oxon, and Buxton Hydropathic 53

,, Wilkhurst Farm, Leigh, Kent; Badminton and Hall Orchards 54

,, Shepton Mallet, on Somerset and Dorset Railway ... ... 55 - 56

,, Wiltshire; Kettering, Northants .. 56

,, Steeple Aston; Bath; Maisemore, Gloucester 57

,, Corsham; co. Tyrone; Northampton ... 58

,, Carlisle; Lincolnshire; Waterford ... 59

,, at Hinksey Hill, near Oxford ... ... 60—61

,, at Cork Brewery 61

,, at Lindfield, Sussex; and Stamford ... 62

,, at Broxborne, and Bishop Stortford ... 63

Press Extracts on the use of the Divining Rod... ... 64—67

PREFACE.

IN submitting to the public the following publication, the Authors are aware of the fact that the Dowsing Rod, or Divining Rod, as it is often termed, is not largely accepted by the scientific world, and no doubt the following will be subject to some criticism from those generally who do not admit the fact of any one thing they themselves cannot enter into and prove by certain restricted laws the why and wherefore such things do exist.

To such, and to those generally who, in the pride of intellect deny or profess not to be able to give credence to the existence of phenomena the cause of which they do not understand, we would commend to their earnest attention the authoritative and weighty words of the well-known eminent scientist and electrician, Mr. W. Crookes, F.R.S., which are found in the proceedings of *Psychical Research*, December 1889, page 100. To those who assume, as is assumed by some popular writers, that we are now acquainted with all, or nearly all, or even any assignable proportion of forces at work in the universe, show a limitation of conception, which ought to be impossible in an age when the widening of the circle of our definite knowledge does but reveal the proportionately widening circle of our blank absolute indubitable ignorance. We would further draw attention to the fact that J. MULLINS has been before the public as a water-finder for upwards of 30 years, and, together with his

two sons, has located over 5,000 Springs, and in the same time has carried out works in connection with 700 water supplies for Mansions, Breweries, Factories, Farms, &c., by Sinkings, Shafts, boring Artesian Wells, laying on Water Mains, and the Fixing of Windmill and other Pumps.

Having a thorough knowledge of what is required under such circumstances, Messrs. J. MULLINS & SONS are prepared to test land for springs of water in any part of Great Britain and Ireland, and those who may employ them may rely upon this—that, from Mr. MULLINS's experience of 30 years, he is bound to find water wherever it exists. To dispel any suspicion of trickery the authors have annexed a few testimonials out of the many hundreds that have been received by Messrs. MULLINS, and, with these in their possession as proof positive of what they have accomplished, they confidently invite anyone requiring spring water to put their powers to the test.

J. & H. W. MULLINS.

A SKETCH OF MR. JOHN MULLINS'S CAREER.

MR. JOHN MULLINS, the noted water discoverer, the authors' father, was born Nov. 12th, 1838, in the quiet little village of Colerne, eight miles from Chippenham, in the County of Wilts. His father was a mason. There were eleven children, of whom JOHN MULLINS was the second son. He followed the same pursuit as his father, and in the year 1859 he was employed on the Ashwick Estate, in Gloucestershire, belonging to Sir John Orred, who was having a hall built. This gentleman, being in want of a larger supply of water and not knowing what course to take to obtain it, was talking one day to a gentleman, a friend, who inquired if he had not heard of a spring discoverer or diviner. Sir John replied that he had not, when his friend told him there was a water discoverer of the name of Adams living in Cornwall. Sir John at once decided to send for him, which he did. When Adams arrived Sir John and his friends went to some buildings, where Adams began walking in different directions with his hazel rod. He had not gone far before he suddenly stopped, the rod having quickly turned upwards, to the great astonishment of all the spectators. At this place he declared there was a strong spring of water, and after marking the spot he proceeded about seventy yards further where he again stopped, and declared there was a still stronger spring. At this point he asked if there was anyone in the company who would like to try their power. There were about a

hundred persons present, and each one took hold of the rod to ascertain if any one of the company possessed the same power. Among the number was a daughter of Sir John, who, when she held the rod over the same line of water, found it turned so violently that she threw it down in fright. This lady was the only person among the number that had the slightest power. A well was afterwards sunk on the spot selected by Adams, and a splendid spring of water was found about 60 feet from the surface, which still yields an abundant supply. Adams went away, and was seen there no more ; but a few days afterwards Sir John, thinking it so wonderful that his daughter possessed this power, decided to try all the men on the building, who numbered about one hundred and fifty. Therefore he called them out one by one, and when it came to JOHN MULLINS's turn to hold the twig it turned upwards so violently that it snapped in two, to his great surprise and amusement. Accordingly he was declared a water-finder. But he still followed his work as a mason, until one day Sir John came to him and asked him to go to a farm to search for water where a supply was much needed. He went and walked about close to the farm buildings. After going some distance the rod began to move, and he at once stopped, and had a peg driven into the ground to indicate the spot. He tried farther afield, but without success, whereupon Sir John decided to have a well sunk at the place marked as a test of Mr. MULLINS's power. Soon afterwards the well sinkers commenced operations, and at a depth of eighty-five feet they tapped a spring yielding 200 gallons per hour. This was the first practical exemplification given by J. MULLINS of his power as to the discovery of springs. Being a somewhat singular affair the circumstances were quickly reported in the neighbourhood, and the result was that other people sought his advice upon the same subject. In all cases where sinking operations were commenced the works proved thoroughly successful.

JOHN MULLINS was married in the year 1859, and followed the occupation of a mason and water-finder till twelve years ago, when he had to give up masonry and devote his whole time to water-finding, being successful wherever he went. He was blessed with a family of four daughters and four sons, two of whom possessed the same power as himself. His eldest son, Joseph, tried the twig hundreds of times before he was nineteen years old, but found he only possessed the power very slightly. Therefore, thinking it would be of no use, he gave it up till three years later, when he went to Ireland with his father, and was a fortnight in Ireland before he tried the twig again. This occurred at Blackrock, the last engagement his father had in Ireland on that occasion. After some experiments had been made he accidentally took hold of one of the twigs and tried it over one of the springs that his father had just found. To his surprise the twig began to move fast. On informing the gentleman it was the first time the twig had moved with him he decided to test him. His plan was for his father to go and find two springs, and make two private marks, and then for his son to follow him to see if he could discover the same springs. This course was pursued, without Mr. MULLINS's son being acquainted with the places that had been marked. When he had gone a few yards in the direction he was told the rod suddenly turned upwards, and the gentleman informed him that it was the exact spot where his father had stopped. He continued to advance, and stopped a second time at the other place that had been marked, so the gentleman thought it was a good test of his powers as a water-finder. From that time until now Jos. MULLINS has been declared a water-finder, and has found for gentlemen by whom he has been employed several good springs of water, some of which he herein refers to. H. W. MULLINS, the junior member of the firm, from a lad manifested the power of using the twig, and from time to time was successful in locating springs

which Mr. MULLINS, senr., had already discovered, and on attaining the age of 21 years he became a member of the firm. For several years past he has been constantly employed in the work, thus gaining considerable experience. On one occasion Mr. J. MULLINS was employed in Sussex by Henry Harben, Esq., to try his land for water. Previously the best engineering advice had been obtained, and several hundred pounds had been spent without success. The scene of these operations, where two deep wells had been sunk, was shown to Mr. MULLINS, who began to walk to and fro with his hazel rod without observing any indication of water, and he declared that if they sank 500 feet they would find no spring. The wells in question had been sunk at one end of a park of about 50 acres, and Mr. MULLINS, ignoring the scene of the late operations, commenced to walk from one end of the park to the other. When he had gone about 40 yards the rod began to move slowly, showing there was a small spring below, but which was not deemed strong enough to justify the expense of sinking operations, so on he went again and found several other springs. These he passed by, but when nearly at the end of the park he came across another, which he said was a very good one, and would be found at a depth of from 50 to 60 feet. Messrs. MULLINS contracted for the work, and when they had got only 10 feet below the surface they came across a splendid spring in sandstone rock. They sank the well 19 feet and the water rose nearly to the surface—at any rate within three feet. The well being not more than five feet in diameter the gentleman above-mentioned thought the reserve was not quite large enough, and considered it was no use going deeper as he wanted it to flow to the house by gravitation. J. MULLINS, junr., knowing that he had the power to discover water, asked if he might try the rod nearer the road to see if he could find another spring. He said that if another spring could be found and a well sunk they could connect the two by means of a trench

or a culvert and thus secure a good reserve. The gentleman referred to assented, and MULLINS, taking him at his word, at once began to walk with his rod, and had only gone twenty-five yards when the twig turned upwards with an inclination which led him to declare there would be a good spring found if a well were sunk to a depth of 12 or 14 feet. The gentleman agreed to this course, and the workmen had only gone nine feet below the surface when the water began to rush in. Continuing their operations, they sank the well 12 feet deep, and made it seven feet in diameter, and now the well contains nine feet of beautiful pure water. (See testimonial annexed.)

The object of this work is to bring before the public the utility of the Divining Rod as a mode—and a most successful and satisfactory mode—of discovering water underground. The supply from such a source may be generally relied upon for its purity and wholesomeness, and from its freedom from risk of contamination, a desideratum which is of inestimable value to everyone, no matter what their circumstances or position in life may be. Bad water induces all kinds of ailments, some of which often prove fatal. Pure water is also of very great importance to agriculturists and stock-keepers, whose cattle, if not supplied with a pure liquid, may develope all kinds of insidious complaints, with the possible result of contaminating the produce of the dairy. This is a danger which, in these days, "he who runs may read." Moreover, pure and clear water is not only vitally necessary for a farm, but there are many industries which equally require it, namely, Brewing, Bleaching, Paper-Making, &c. Brewing particularly requires good spring water, especially for cooling and refrigerating purposes. As many persons are well aware, it is an easy matter to get a well sunk in some soil, and more easy to get deceived in the way of finding a spring. Usually there is a little water of some sort found, but if a good spring should be discovered

it is only by chance. As a matter of fact the names of many gentlemen could be mentioned who have spent hundreds of pounds in boring and sinking operations to the depth of 1,000 feet without finding water. Some people say there is water to be found anywhere if you only go deep enough, but the question is what they mean by going "deep enough." The current opinion is that 100 feet is deep enough to sink a well, but Messrs. MULLINS have been to several places where people have bored 600 or 700 feet and got no water. With his advice, however, they have, not more than 20 yards distant from the scene of the other boring operations, discovered by the use of the rod a good spring at a depth of from 60 to 100 feet. Therefore the writers aver that to discover a spring free from contamination requires a man who possesses the gift of water-finding with the Divining Rod.

J. & H. W. MULLINS.

THE DOWSING ROD.

Much of the following evidence in support of the Dowsing Rod has been collected by Mr. Vaughan Jenkins, of Oxford, late of Cheltenham, by whose kind permission it is reprinted here :—

"The art of Divining has long been considered by Men of Science and by the General Public as one of the Black Arts which alone has survived in remote villages and amongst uneducated mining populations. This is the commonly held view of the matter, but a little investigation discloses the fact that belief in the power of the Divining Rod is by no means confined to remote villages and uneducated persons, as the evidence of its value is strong, and comes from unexpected quarters. The Divining or Dowsing Rod is a V shaped twig, commonly of hazel, from 1 to 3 feet in length, and from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch diameter. It is firmly grasped by the two ends, one in each hand, and the Dowser walks carefully over the ground to be tried, holding the Rod before him, and when walking over a spring the Rod turns up of its own accord, indicating a spring beneath. In England the Rod is used for seeking for water, in Cornwall and California it is used to discover veins of metallic ore, and in Pennsylvania to find mineral oil. During the last few years the art of Divining has attracted fresh attention, and a number of letters and articles have appeared in various newspapers and periodicals. Mr. E. Vaughan Jenkins, of Cheltenham, has made a valuable collection of contemporary evidence. He has communicated with various professional Diviners, and has obtained reports of their operations from Land-holders, Architects, Builders, and other persons. Concerning one of the best known Diviners, John Mullins, of Colerne, Wilts, he has received respecting his work

twenty-five rceords of successful location of Wells, all from persons of standing, ehiefly owners of property in Glouces-tershire and Lineolnshire."

By way of eorroborative and independent testimony of the truthfulness, utility, and effieaey of the deteetivc powers of the so-called "Divining Rod," in loeating subtcrranean springs of water, the following unimpeachable evidence, whieh was furnished by Mr. E. Vaughan Jenkins, of Oxford (late of Cheltenham), in his reeent correspondcnee in the *Oxford Times* on the subject of the "Divining Rod," and re-produced here by his kind permission, will show that the "extraordinary faculty of revealing by the ageney of the hazel rod" the exaet spot where hidden waters lic is not solely confined to professional "diviners," but that it is due to "some physical or psyehical pcculiarities" (not yet ex-plained by seience), and whieh may be regarded as an attribute common to all persons who may be described as "sensitivcs," some possessing the power in a greater and some in a lesser degree, while ineidentally and directly this evidence is of itself a eomplete and irrefutable answer to all those seeptieal persons who denounee, even without the slightest practieal knowledge of the subject, these so-called (but really scientifie) divining operations as a gross super-stition and imposture.

In the following letter, which was inserted in *The Times* on October 7th, 1882, and whieh ereated so much interest in the public press generally—not even yet entirely subsided—Mr. Vaughan Jenkins narrates his own personal experiences, which provcd so eonelusivc and beneficial to him as not only fully to eonvinee him of the absolute reality of the phenomena that the "rod" presents in the hands of the operators, but of its great praetical and eeonomie utility in finding water after all ordinary means shall havc failcd to do so.

Mr. Vaughan Jenkins has kindly permitted us to publish

his valuable personal testimony in this little pamphlet, "with his best wishes for our continued success."

"*To the Editor of 'The Times.'*

"Sir,—About 30 years ago I purchased a plot of land about two acres, situated on a hill slope, where I intended to erect a residence of considerable value. It formed part of an estate laid out for building purposes, in a suburb of Newport, Monmouthshire. The absence of waterworks necessitated the holder of each plot, who intended building thereon, to sink a well for his water supply. Having chosen the site for my residence, the architect fixed upon the most convenient spot for the first requisite, the well. After the well sinkers had reached a depth of 51 feet, they decided, from the nature of the strata, that it would be perfectly useless to proceed with the sinking, as the search for water in that direction would be sure to end in failure. A consultation of all the 'knowing ones' was, therefore, held, with the result that it was decided to stop sinking. They did not consider there was the least possible chance of water being obtained on the plot of land anywhere. In this dilemma, the foreman of the masons, a native of Devon or Cornwall—I forget which—exclaimed, 'Why don't you try the Divining Rod? In the part of the country where I come from, no one would think of sinking a well without first trying the rod.' Although quite incredulous, I said I should be very glad to have it tried, if I knew anyone who could use it, upon which he said his little boy, 11 years of age, possessed the power in a remarkable degree, and that if water was to be obtained on the plot, he would pledge his character that his boy would find it. The lad, an honest, innocent, and nice-looking little fellow, being sent for, was informed what was required of him, immediately repaired to a neighbouring hedge, and returned with a rod of black thorn or hazel, about two feet in length, and of the thickness of a telegraph wire, and then placing the ends of the rod between the thumb and forefinger of each hand, bending it slightly, and holding it before him, he started on his expedition, and after going up and down the field, crossing and recrossing, but never on the same line, the lad stopped, and, to our great surprise, we saw the rod exhibit signs of motion, the fingers and thumb being perfectly motionless,

the motion increasing till it began to revolve ; and although the lad tried to stop its motion, he was obliged to let it go. The experiment being thus far successful, coupled with the respectability of the parents, the lad's transparent innocence, and the father's positive assurance that the operation might be commenced with the certainty of success, the next day saw the well sinkers on the spot indicated, and, on reaching the depth of 48 feet, they had the gratification of striking a strong spring of pure and beautiful water, coming in so fast as to cause them to make a hurried exit, and, in a few hours the well contained 10 feet of water, and continued rising steadily until it stood 15 feet, and so it now continues. The father of the lad stated that, when he was a boy, he possessed the same power, but entirely lost it when he was 16 years of age. To myself personally its results were most important, as it changed the position of my residence, and secured me an exhaustless supply of beautiful water. I was fully convinced of the integrity of the whole transaction, and I, therefore, cannot avoid entertaining the opinion that there must be something in it — that something being dependent upon some peculiar magnetic or other conditions of the human agent employed, it may yet form one of the grand discoveries of this or some future age.

"I am, Sir,
"Your obedient Servant,
"E. Vaughan Jenkins.

Cheltenham, October 25th, 1882."

After fully describing the *modus operandi* adopted by "diviners" generally, and stating that the rod in the operator's hands at the moment of its detecting an underground spring of water apparently serves as an indicator similar to the deflected needle on the dial-plate of an electric telegraph, Mr. Vaughan Jenkins thus continues :—

"There is no doubt that the inability of the operator to explain the *rationale* of the phenomena incidental to the so-called divining operation, excites in the minds of a certain order the suspicion of credulity, superstition, or even imposture. It is therefore to be hoped that the day is not far distant, when, in the interest of scientific truth, the claims

of this 'mysterious power' will receive a patient, exhaustive, and unbiassed scientific investigation. This much, however, appears certain, if it be an axiom that Nature has no room for the supernatural, and the alleged phenomena admitted to be a reality, then the cause of that phenomena—whether it be due partly or solely to psychic force or to the conditioned influence of terrestrial magnetism on the human nerves, or to any other yet-to-be-discovered occult or subtle power—must be found within the domain of natural law, and with rightful claims to be included within the purview of natural sciences.

"Impressed with this conviction, and being desirous of proving that there does exist at least a *primâ facie* foundation for a full scientific examination of the subject, I determined to collect the evidence already alluded to. In the course of a few months I succeeded in obtaining 70 or 80 reports of verified successful location of wells by various professional and amateur diviners, nearly all of them from persons of standing and entitled to speak with authority from their having been present at the divining operations, and therefore cognizant of the facts; and the majority of these reports are careful and detailed statements of what took place under their own personal observation.

"This collection of evidence has been pronounced to be a 'unique and most important contribution to the literature of the Divining Rod,' but the record would be incomplete if I omitted to state that in each application I specially requested to be informed of any failure in finding water after a shaft had been sunk on the indicated spot, and that in no single instance did such an event occur, but that the testimonies I received show that not only was success invariable, but that in most cases the water would not have been found at all but for the intervention of the diviner's agency.

"In the face of all this evidence, and of accumulating evidence, he would be a bold man who, in these Edisonian days, would venture dogmatically to define the boundary line between the possible and the impossible. To such an one, and to those who, in the pride of intellect, deny, or who profess not to be able to give credence to the existence of phenomena, the causes of which they do not understand, I would commend to their earnest attention the authoritative and weighty words of the well-known eminent scientist and

electrician, Mr. Wm. Crookes, F.R.S., which are to be found in the last published part of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research (December, 1889, p. 100). That eminent man thus writes :—'Those who assume—as is assumed by some popular writers—that we are now acquainted with all, or nearly all, or even with any assignable proportion of the forces at work in the universe, show a limitation of conception which ought to be impossible in an age when the widening of the circle of our definite knowledge does but reveal the proportionately widening circle of our blank, absolute, indubitable ignorance."

In the following extract from a leading article in the *Oxford Times,* it will be seen that the editor comments upon and makes especial reference to Mr. Jenkins's original letter to *The Times.*

From the *Oxford Times*, Saturday, March 29th, 1890.

THE DIVINING ROD.

"Last week we gave in our correspondence columns a long letter upon the subject of the Divining Rod, from the pen of Mr. Vaughan Jenkins, a resident of Oxford (late of Cheltenham). The question of the efficacy of the Divining Rod is almost a periodical one, but it is, nevertheless, interesting. Some of our readers may possibly recollect that on Oct. 7th, 1882, the London *Times* published a letter from Mr. Vaughan Jenkins containing a narrative of an extraordinary find of an inexhaustible spring of water at 48 feet deep by a Cornish lad of eleven years old on a then recently acquired plot of land two acres in extent, around which a boundary wall had been built, and extensive preliminary preparation made for the immediate erection of a house of considerable value. At a spot chosen by the architect a shaft had previously been sunk through difficult strata at a great cost to the depth of 51 feet, but by common consent the attempt to find water had been abandoned as futile, and but for the find of this splendid spring of water, continuing unto this day—by this delicate and artless Cornish lad with his hazel rod, without fee or reward given or expected, and who ran off to his play totally unconscious of the value, importance, or nature of the operation he had been engaged in—the land

would have been practically valueless, and the preliminary expenses, amounting to some hundreds of pounds, would have been a virtual if not an actual loss. The appearance of this letter in *The Times* was the *fons et origo* of a mass of correspondence at the time, which has been more or less running ever since, together with many magazine articles. A paper in *Chambers's Journal* for August, 1888, and one in the *Cornhill Magazine*, dealt with the history and extensive literature of the Rod, while the *Quiver* of July, 1887, has also given an article on the modern application of the Rod, with especial reference to Mr. Vaughan Jenkins's letter to *The Times*. Whether the Divining Rod is merely a superstition or not we will not waste our time to argue. Be this as it may, Mr. Vaughan Jenkins's letter will probably induce most readers to conclude that even if the use of the hazel twig is a superstition, it is at any rate harmless, and at times, although it may be nothing but a remarkable coincidence, useful and economic."

From Captain HENRY SMITH.

December 26th, 1872.

Hortling, Folkingham, Lincolnshire.

"It will, perhaps, be the best answer to your letter respecting JOHN MULLINS (the water-finder as he is called here) if I tell you as well as I can what took place when he was here. My object in sending for him was to obtain his advice as to the best place to bore for water on some of my land, and when he came he said he must get a twig. I told him I did not believe in his conjuring tricks; I only wanted his advice. He then said he was no conjuror, but was not the slightest use without his tools, so I stood by while he cut from the hedge a couple of V shaped twigs. My nephew went with me, and we each carried a thistle spud. In crossing the first field I said, 'I have water here, so I need not trouble you;' but MULLINS said he might as well carry the twigs in his fingers, and, whilst we were talking about the stock in the field, he stopped suddenly, and said we were crossing a stream of water. This I knew was the case, although there was not the slightest appearance of any. The next field was the one I had especially sent for him for, as I had a dry pond, and bored 40 feet, but found no water.

I then took him to the side of the field above the pond, and after casting about for some time, he said, decidedly, there was no water there, and proposed trying the other side of the field, and, reaching the other side, he said, 'There is plenty of water here.' We marked the place, and I have since bored there, and found an abundant supply of water. I then took him across two other fields, and in each he found what he called a weak spring, not worth boring for. We were walking at that time a distance from him on each side, and we marked the ground, where he said he was over water, I believe, unknown to him. On our return I said, 'Now, MULLINS, I shall blindfold you, and see if you can find these places again.' He agreed to hold his head back, and keep his eyes firmly closed, and we led him on to the spots before marked, and in each field he stopped exactly over the marks; and the marks on the turf were so slight, I do not believe he could have seen them had he not been blindfolded.

"We then came home to my lawn, and I showed him a beautiful spring, and also informed him what quarter we supposed the water came from (the north). He tried all over the north side, and said most positively there was no water there, and then proceeded to the south side, and seemed almost convulsed when he crossed the stream. He said it was the strongest spring he had ever found, and I and my nephew took hold of the twig on either side, and tried to prevent its turning, but found it quite impossible to do so. I have since bored there, and found abundance of water. I may say here that MULLINS had not been in our neighbourhood before, and he distinctly asserted the water-bearing strata lay very different from what we had always supposed before.

"We are on clay, between the fen and limestone, and the land rises steadily from us until it reaches the highest point on the Great Northern Railway, and my theory was that the rainfall there percolated the limestone, and under the clay strata, which continues from thence to us. This MULLINS quite denied, and our borings have proved the correctness of his statement, so far as this that there is plenty of water in the direction pointed out by him. I did not look upon MULLINS as a charlatan, but suspected he did a good deal by guess, but must confess to being unable to prove this.

That he could find the same indications of water blindfolded quite puzzled me and my nephew too, who is a thoroughly practical man.

"That the twig was acted upon when MULLINS had no control over its movements, we were also both satisfied. MULLINS was very confident in his assertion that there was no water or otherwise, and certainly did not adopt the usual plan of falling in with the views of those who paid him. I have recommended him to some first-class business men, and they all tell me they are satisfied he is no impostor. I may add that, as a magistrate, I have frequently been told I ought not to countenance such a man, but I generally take my own line in such things, and try to arrive at some conclusion. In this matter I can only say I do not understand it, but give you the facts as near as I can, and shall be glad to hear of any steps taken to explain the mystery."

By Sir W. E. WELBY GREGORY, Bart., M.P.

Denton Manor, Grantham,

January, 1883.

"In the spring of 1877 I was preparing to build a large country house, on a new site I had selected on account, among other reasons, of its dryness. This site was on a large plateau of red loamy soil, resting on a bed of solid rock several feet thick, in which there was no indication of water, and it was a problem where the water supply was to come from, as there was none apparent which could be brought to the house without great expense. While puzzling over this, I heard of JOHN MULLINS, of Colerne, Wilts, who had been employed to find water at several places in the neighbourhood, with very remarkable success, and that he had been tested in almost every conceivable way, and that not only country gentlemen and farmers, but plumbers in the neighbouring towns, had frequently called in his aid purely as a matter of business, and I was at last induced to send for him. When he came I asked him if he required a twig of any particular kind, and he replied that almost any kind would do, but he generally used hazel. He then cut for himself from the most convenient tree a twig about one foot or eighteen inches long, in the shape of a V. I set him to work first on my lawn, where I knew there was water,

though none was visible from the surface. He commenced by walking across the lawn, in a slightly stooping position, carrying the twig before him, one fork in either hand, and whenever he crossed the water of which I have spoken, the twig turned upwards in his hands, though he apparently resisted its doing so to the utmost. The same thing happened at other parts of the lawn, where other runlets existed. I then took him to the kitchen garden, where we had always been much in need of water, and presently the twig stopped him at a spot apparently as dry as the rest, and with nothing distinctive about it. I asked him what amount there was. He answered he was certain of water, but the amount he could only judge by the force of the twig, and also the depth from his experience. He should say the stream was about the size of an inch pipe, at a depth of 30 to 40 feet. He traversed the rest of the garden without finding any more. I then took him to the site of the new house here. He soon indicated two lines of water flowing in somewhat greater volume, at a depth of about 30 feet. This was all he could find there, and, as this seemed hardly likely to be sufficient for my requirements, I felt it must be looked for at a greater distance. To save time I took him to a spot from which he could see the contour of the hills (about a mile from the house), from which most of our water comes, showed him what springs we knew of, and told him to choose for himself the best place to search for more. He, unhesitatingly, selected the upper part of a certain hill, which was afterwards pronounced by an eminent civil engineer to be unquestionably the most likely spot within sight to contain water, and thither we went. He tried the whole hill-side over without finding a drop, and we afterwards took another hill-side with no better result. It was now late, and MULLINS was evidently becoming exhausted. I felt I had seen enough to convince me he was no impostor, and that whatever discoveries he made were due to some force over which he had no control—not to any power he had acquired by practice or observation. But I was not sure he had found anything for me which was likely to be of any practical use, so I dismissed him to tea. After tea several of the servants, whose curiosity was excited, got him to exhibit his art to them, and tried whether they themselves had any power with the twig. My gardener,

Joseph Towers, found that it worked in his hands nearly as well as it did in the hands of MULLINS. I took no further steps in the matter, but described to the civil engineer what I had seen, who by no means 'pooh-poohed' the matter. He assured me that from his knowledge of the geological formation of the country he could say confidently there was no means of finding water under the site selected for my new house at a depth less than 120 or 130 feet, and his opinion was confirmed by another geological authority who was then in the neighbourhood. So I virtually gave up all hope of deriving any benefit from MULLINS's assertions. Some weeks after, however, my gardener came to me, and said he was in great need of water in the kitchen garden; that he had tried repeatedly over the place where MULLINS had indicated water, and the twig invariably turned up at the spot, and that he was quite convinced there was water there. If I would allow him he could sink a well with the garden labourers, so as not to involve any expense. I consented to this. The well was sunk to the depth of 30 feet, when water poured into it freely, and it has supplied a long range of hothouses ever since. I had previously decided upon bringing down the main supply of water to the new house in pipes by gravitation, but as this was a heavy work and necessarily taking much time, the question of a supply during building had become urgent. On the strength of what had taken place in the kitchen garden, I set Towers to traverse the new site where the lines of water had by MULLINS been marked with pegs 60 to 70 yards apart, and just visible above the grass. These lines Towers, with the twig, emphatically confirmed. The presumption now appeared so strong in favour of the twig that I determined to disregard the geologist, and have a well sunk on one of the lines indicated by MULLINS. This was done, and at a depth of 28 feet water rushed in and rose till it stood eight feet deep, at which it now remains, having supplied all the requirements for the building of the house with probably not less than 1,000 gallons per day for three years or more, and since that has acted as an ample reserve for the house. I may add that I have since had occasion to sink a shaft for a lift between the two lines marked by MULLINS, some 12 or 15 yards from either, and to a depth of 10 or 12 feet deeper than the well, and no water came into this, though the soil was precisely the same,

and the well has not been affected by it. I am satisfied had I not have sent for MULLINS I might have sunk wells in any number under my new house to no purpose, unless I had happened by chance to hit upon one of the rills indicated by him with such perfect precision."

From JAMES W. BAILLIE, Esq.

"Ilston Grange, Leicester, January 21, 1891.

"Mr. MULLINS was quite successful in finding water here some three years since, and not only did I find at the spots which he marked but also reached at about the depth which he had named."

From Lord WINCHILSEA.

"Ennismore Gardens, S.W.,

"February 29th, 1884.

"Hearing that J. MULLINS possessed the power of finding springs of water by means of a forked twig held between his fingers, I desired him to come over to Haverholme Priory, near Sleaford, where I live. This is what happened :— First, he cut a forked twig from a living tree and held it in his hands, one fork in each hand, the centre point downwards, and the two ends protruding between his fingers. Stooping forward, he would walk over the ground to be tried. Suddenly he would stop, and the centre point would revolve in a half circle, until it pointed the reverse way. This he stated to be owing to the presence of a subterranean spring, and, further, by the movement of the twig, he could gauge the approximate depth. My brother (Hon. H. FINCH HATTON) and I each took hold of one end of the twig, protruding, as stated above, and held them fast while the phenomenon took place, to make sure that it was not caused by the movement of the man's own hand or fingers. The tendency to twist itself on the twig's part was so great that on our holding firmly on to the ends it split and finally broke off. The same thing occurred on a bridge while standing over a running stream. Stagnant water, he states, has no effect on the twig.

"Though now convinced of MULLINS's good faith and the independent action of the twig, we resolved to test MULLINS in various ways, of which the following is an account:— First, we established it on good authority that MULLINS had no previous acquaintance of Haverholme. I then took him on to the grass in front of the house, across which the water supply pipe passed. There were no indications of its presence on the surface, nor did I previously mention its existence to MULLINS on crossing it. The twig moved in the manner described, and he could trace the water to the right and to the left by its means along the path actually taken by the pipe. I then took him to the kitchen garden. MULLINS discovered a spring on the open lawn which was unknown to me, it had been closed in so long, but was subsequently attested by an old labourer on the place, who remembered its being bricked up some years previous.

"On reaching the garden I knew there was a lead pipe leading water to a tap on the other side of the wall. On crossing the gravel path the twig made no motion. I was astonished at first, till I remembered what MULLINS had said about stagnant water, and that the tap was turned off. I sent to have it turned on, and re-conducted MULLINS over the ground, when the twig immediately indicated the spot. When MULLINS had passed on I carefully marked the spot where the twig moved, and after he had left the garden I said, 'Now, MULLINS, may I blindfold you?' to which he replied 'Yes; if you promise not to lead me into a pond, or anything of that sort.' We promised, and several sceptical persons who were present took care it was thoroughly done. I then led him to the place marked by a different route, leaving the tap running, with the result that the stick marked the exact spot. At first he slightly over-ran it a foot or so, but the twig moving in his hand caused him to step back into the exact centre of influence by the twig. All present considered the trial satisfactory in every way, and it certainly was conclusive of two things:—First, the man's perfect good faith; secondly, the effect produced on the twig emanated from a power outside himself, and appeared due to the presence of running water.

"My brother, Mr. Harold Finch Hatton, is present while I write, and confirms what I say. It is true that one of the Misses Wordsworth tried the twig and was surprised to find

that an influence of a similar nature, though not so strong, was imparted to it. I merely give facts, without attempting to explain them. No doubt it will be long before they are generally admitted—probably not till scientific men cease to gratify their vanity by denying the existence of everything they cannot explain or account fully for. It appears to me to be due to some occult form of magnetism requiring a high conductive power. In the operation MULLINS says he feels something akin to an electric shock each time, and that his arms ache all night after many experiments."

From *The Implement and Machinery Review.*

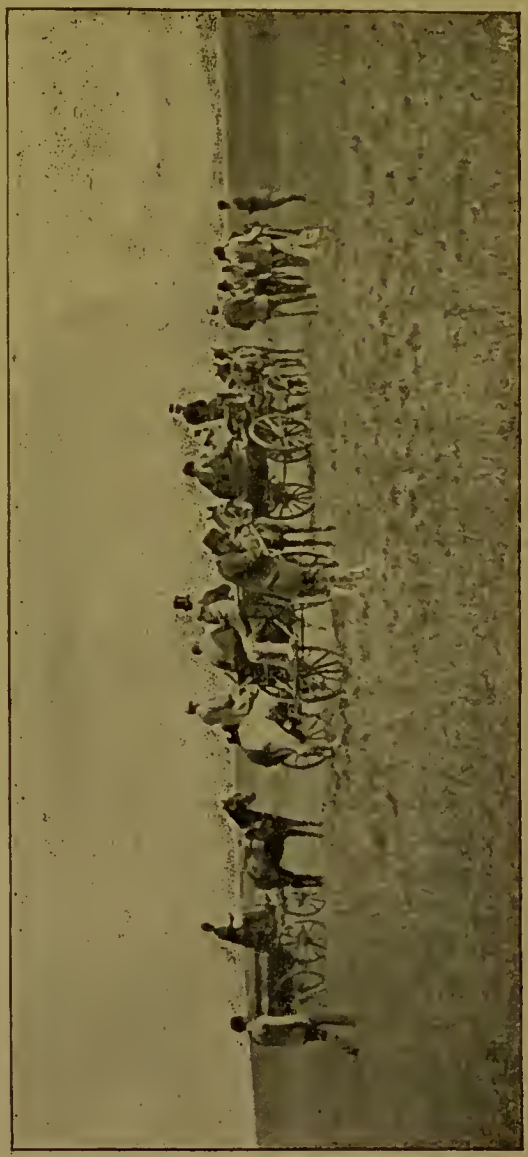
We cull the following extract from an article entitled "Water Supply Appliances and the Divining Rod," which appeared in *The Implement and Machinery Review* on the 1st July, 1892, referring in the first case to the success of Mr. J. Wallis Titt's steam pumps and wind engines as a means of raising water. The writer then goes on to say :—

"Whilst water is easy enough to raise in this manner, the means available for determining its existence would appear to be no more difficult, if what was said to have been ascertained on Salisbury Plain during the early part of the month proves correct. The august owner of this invigorating tract very sensibly attaches importance to the wisdom of sinking wells and conserving water, if it exists, upon his estate. Wisely enough Lord Heytesbury has consulted Mr. Titt, and certain schemes have been formulated. But, before digging a foot below the surface, he essayed to give MULLINS, the water-finder, of Colerne, an opportunity of proving to him the extent to which the Divining Rod can be relied upon. We heard of this, and determining to be present sought permission, and on June 13 we had the satisfaction of being introduced to the most prominent members of the party. Up to that time we had belonged to the most sceptical of disbelievers in the activity of the hazel twig in anyone's hands over running water, and, like his lordship, we manifested special interest in watching every movement of the celebrated MULLINS—famous as he is for having successfully used the Divining Rod for 33 years, and

having located and found water in nearly 700 instances, without, he affirms, ever making a mistake. Taking one of the slender little twigs he carried between the third and fourth fingers of each hand, and pressing the forked extremities down with his thumbs, Mr. MULLINS soon began operations by holding it before him as he walked along in the direction which his lordship's steward had indicated as being the most convenient places upon the Plain for possessing water. Stopping suddenly, and with evident delight, not long after he had started, 'Here is a spring,' he said, 'look!' and those who stood by witnessed the undoubted gyrations of the twig within his hands. Everyone looked astonished, and Lord and Lady Heytesbury each held it without success in witnessing it even quiver, but directly MULLINS's subtle influence was communicated, and this he imparted by holding their wrists, the twig revolved. In some of the visitors' hands, however, by his agency it was passive. When questioned, his lordship very courteously informed us that he distinctly felt a strange sensation in his wrists whilst MULLINS held them, and the twig revolved. When we say revolved, we wish the word to be accepted in its fullest sense, for at one extremity, in many instances, as can be seen in the specimen we possess, the twigs used were well nigh severed, merely hanging by the slenderest fibres. Within three hours he had located eleven springs, had volunteered the depths at which he affirmed water could be found, and had given the approximate capacity of each spring.

"Our illustrations (see pages 22 and 23) will show the character of the land prospected, each of the engravings showing spots where springs were stated to exist. MULLINS, when questioned, showed himself to be the possessor of an excellent memory, for in harking back he would again and again correctly recapitulate what he had foretold of the value of each spring. No depth was fixed at less than 100 feet, and the majority at 150, whilst the best spot in the centre of the property was estimated to yield from three to five hundred gallons per hour at 200 feet. Whether water exists at these points or not has to be proved by boring, and whether it be animal magnetism or any other occult power by which in MULLINS's hands a hazel twig revolves, there is no getting over the fact that the strongest testimony exists as to the accuracy of what he has continuously prophesied,

for the Earl of Jersey, having availed himself of JOHN MULLINS'S services on very many occasions during the last



Mullins Exemplifying a Spring's Existence on Salisbury Plain.

six or seven years, 'can bear witness to the great success which has always followed his indications of the places in

which water was to be found, and would not now think of sinking a well without his advice ; ' whilst Mr. Chas. Clarke,

Marking the Water Diviner's Location of a Second Spring on Salisbury Plain.

of Ashby de la Launde, writing of MULLINS's complete success on his Lodge Farm, says :—' Having sunk 72 feet

we came across a good spring: we then fixed a windmill pump, and now all our requirements are supplied, in addition to almost doubling the value of the farm.' These are but two of the many reports of precisely the same tenor we possess. Interested in ascertaining what we could of his career, we learned that MULLINS originally worked in Warminster as a mason, first conceived that the spirit of divination was in him after seeing Adams, a Cornishman, following the same avocation in prospecting for lead, and finding his first efforts at Ashwick Hall, near Bath, in 1859, successful, occasionally followed that pursuit afterwards, until 14 years ago, when he associated the work of well-sinking with water-finding. This is his present avocation. Lord Knutsford is now employing him, as, too, are others at Buxton and Bradford-on-Avon. His usefulness, although often pooh-poohed, does not prevent him from following a calling which has not only proved lucrative to himself but beneficial to many others. We await with interest the result of MULLINS's prognostications, for if the water prophesied is sought for and obtained, it is estimated that many of the holdings on Lord Heytesbury's estate will be worth from £50 to £100 more per annum respectively than they are at present. Mr. Titt's idea is to pump up the water, should it be obtained, by means of one of his wind engines, to store it in a reservoir, and then to distribute it through pipes by gravitation. This is a well-conceived scheme, and as valuable as his preceding water schemes have been practical and economical."

[After the above remarks appeared in the *Review*, Lord Heytesbury decided to sink a well on one of the spots marked by Mr. MULLINS, where he said water would be found at a depth of 200 feet; and a well having been sunk through a chalk formation to the depth of 190 feet an exceptionally fine spring was tapped, which now supplies the farms and village of Heytesbury, the water being raised by one of Mr. J. W. Titt's famous windmill pumps.]

SUCCESSFUL DISCOVERY OF SPRINGS IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

A most sueeessful diseovery of springs oecurred on the Dorton Estate, Brill, in Buekinghamshire. At this place the farmers had to eart all their water from a distanee, whieh was, of course, a sourec of great inconvenience and expense. To obviate this, Mr. J. A. Mumford, the agent, called in Mr. J. Mullins, whom he informed that they had bored in several plaees without suecess. Not at all daunted, Mr. Mullins eommeneed his testing operations. He walked in different direetions aeross a pieee of pasture land, and had not gone more than fifty yards when the hazel rod turned upwards, to the great surprise of all present. Thinking, however, that the spring was not strong enough, he proeeeded further afield. Turning to the right, the rod, at a distanee of about seventy yards, began to turn more rapidly, at whieh place he had a peg driven into the ground, and, at the same time, remarked that he felt eonfident water would be reached about 40 feet from the surface. Mr. Mumford, therefore, deeided to have a well sunk at this point, as it was on a clean pieee of land, and away from contamination. Moreover, to prove Mullins's power as a water-finder, he took him to the other farm, where, for about a distance of 100 yards, he tested the land on each side of the house. He also informed the agent that he had sons who understood well-sinking and waterworks in general. Mr. Mumford asked if they would estimate for the work of sinking the well, and laying the pipes, to eonvey water to the house. A reply was given in the affirmative, and an estimate was sent and aeeepted. The well was commeneed, and the workmen had not sunk more than 35 feet before a good spring was reached,

which rose six feet in one night. However, it was deemed advisable to go deeper, and the workmen had to draw the water out in the morning before they could commence operations. They drove the shaft another four feet, and put in five feet of brickwork to uphold the sides, which began to give way. The next morning they discovered the well had collapsed, and filled in, near to the top. The formation being blue clay, it was considered safer and cheaper to sink elsewhere; therefore the men commenced sinking again, and struck water about the same depth as before. They continued driving till they reached a depth of 41 feet, and eventually finished the well, leaving it with 16 feet of beautiful spring water. To convey it to the house and farmyard, they fixed a force-pump on the top of the well, and made a square tank of bricks and cement as a reserve, to supply the house and farmyard by gravitation. After this had been completed, the question was how to get water for the other farm, where Mr. MULLINS had previously tested the land near the house without discovering signs of water. Being determined to get a supply, if there was any chance, J. MULLINS, junr., inquired as to the formation of the land. On being told there was a hill at the back of the house, 200 yards long, and rising 50 feet in the same distance, he commenced walking up the hill, and, on arriving at the top, he found it sloped off the other way, a distance of 400 yards, towards a valley. After taking a glance at it, he asked the farmer if he might try the rod up the hill, because, if a spring could be found, no doubt it would from the top of the well go to the house by gravitation. Getting his consent, he started on the journey, but could not, in a distance of 200 yards, which brought him to the summit of the hill, discover the least signs of water. On he went again down the other slope, and had not gone more than 150 yards before the rod indicated water. On going a little further it turned up powerfully, whereupon he turned to the farmer and told him

that there was a chance yet of getting plenty of good water if the landlord would go to a little expense. Driving a peg into the ground to mark the spot he walked 30 or 40 yards each way, and discovered two springs, though they were not so strong as the first mentioned. His (J. MULLINS's) plan was to sink at the place first marked a well 20 feet deep and 7 feet in diameter; then to trace further the other two springs up the hill, and tap them 9 or 10 feet from the surface, and if possible to cut a trench and lead the two springs into the first well to act as a reservoir. Secondly, to make in the earth with bricks and cement a tank 8 feet square on the top of the hill. Then to fix a pump over the well with a triangular frame for forcing water into the tank; to erect a pump house over the well for the convenience of the farmer's men, who could fill the tank on a wet day; and, as everyone is aware, when pumped on the top of the hill the water would go to the house by simply laying a conduit. After a little conversation he (MULLINS) went to Mr. Mumford and told him his plan, which Mr. Mumford thought was a very good one, if they could only get the water. He decided upon commencing operations, and the writer had only gone seven feet before he tapped a spring, but sank the well 20 feet deep in order to form a reserve in case of a dry summer. When the well was completed it contained 14 feet of beautiful spring water, and there has been a plentiful supply ever since, the farmer getting his water like any city waterworks, by the turning of taps—a mode which is not only convenient, but which, no doubt, saves him about fifty pounds a year.

THE DIVINING ROD.

From the *West Sussex Times and Standard*, Jan. 7th, 1893.

"SIR,—Will you allow me to state my experience of the powers of the Divining Rod in searching for water?

"Having had very great difficulty in the supply of water to this house, I sent for JOHN MULLINS and SONS, of Colerne, near Chippenham, who, by the aid of a twig of hazel, pointed out several places where water could be found. I have sunk wells in four of the places, and in each case have been most successful.

"It may be said that water can be found anywhere—this is not my experience. I have had the best engineering advice and have spent many hundreds of pounds, and hitherto have not obtained sufficient water for my requirements, but now I have an abundant supply.

"I certainly should not think of sinking another well without previously consulting JOHN MULLINS and SONS.

"I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

"HENRY HARBEN.

"Warnham Lodge, Horsham,
"January 3rd, 1893."

THE DIVINING ROD.

From *The Garden*, March 7th, 1885.

"With a version of T. B. and other authorities of the same stamp before one, one hesitates to express a belief in occult practices like the Divining Rod, but, notwithstanding the doubts of the learned, water-finding, by those few gifted rustics who work the twig, is a fact. I hear one of them is shortly to perform before Royalty, and I see the agent of the Earl of Jersey has published in *Farm and Home* a matter of fact account of the man MULLINS'S successful operations on that nobleman's estate last August, when water was exceedingly scarce. Wherever the man marked water, water was found. No. 6 was the most remarkable well. Of the

seventh alluded to, says the writer, at a depth of 13 feet 6 inches, a spring, whose existence was not even expected, was found, and has been proved, after being tested by steam pumps for several days, to yield between 20,000 and 30,000 gallons per day; and this, after an abnormally low rainfall during the year. We know JOHN MULLINS very well, having seen him employed more than once, besides testing him in every way ourselves; once in the company of scientific engineers and others, who, having failed by sinking and boring to find water, had to employ MULLINS: a plain, unpretending working man, professing no scientific abilities whatever. It was quite a treat to see him stepping quietly over the ground with his twig, and making a mark in the soil with his foot, where he said springs existed, and where they were afterwards found; discovering water pipes and drains no one knew anything about previously, and doing other wonderful things. That the man has confidence in his powers is shown by the fact that being also a mason he contracts to sink his own wells. For years back he has been employed by gentlemen, brewers, gardeners, farmers, and others in England and Scotland, and has always been successful. A well-known bishop blindfolded him once, and led him with his twig over a spring of water underneath the ground, which the twig unerringly indicated, to the satisfaction of all present, and MULLINS's benefit. We advise anyone who wants water found in their gardens or grounds to try him. He will find the water if it is there, and he is admitted by gentlemen that have tried him to be the most successful and cheapest engineer in that line they have ever employed. John carried quite a budget of testimonials about with him from gentlemen of all degrees—Magistrates and Parsons, Lawyers and Scientific Authorities, and others, but his numerous wells are his best recommendations."

Extract from *The Garden*, March 21st, 1885.

"When I visited Mr. William Ingram at Belvoir, a year ago, he gave me an interesting account of the employment of the Divining Rod in discovering the whereabouts of a spring of water on one of these slopes, which he was converting from a rough woodland into a delightful spring garden.

"He suspeeted there was some water somewhere at the top of the slope, and was desirous of utilising it so as to have as near a resemblanee as possible to an Alpine waterfall. He was advised to eall in requisition the Divining Rod. Though quite seeptieal as to its utility he agreed to do so, and as the man who held it passed over the spot the rod began to move point upwards. The spot was marked, and water diseovered a few feet below it.

"Mr. Ingram eonfessed frankly that after that he thought more of the Divining Rod than he had done previously. He had an interesting eonversation in regard to the subjeet, and I wish he eould be indueed to give in his own words in the pages of *The Garden* the theory he has formed in regard to the action of the rod.

"Anyone of your readers interested in the Divining Rod will find an admirable paper on the subject in the Rev. Baring Gould's 'Curious Myths of the Middle Ages.' I may state that Mr. Ingram's eonelusions favour the idea that the gift of using the Divining Rod is eonfined to eertain individuals.

"R. Dean."

From the *Wisbech Advertiser*.

"Buxton Hydropathie Establishment,

"Deeember 21st, 1892.

"Sir,—In the Supplement to the *Wisbech Advertiser* of Deeember 7th, I notieed an aeeount of 'The Divining Rod,' on an estate near Blaekburn. The following may interest the readers of your valuable medium. Some time ago Mr. John Mullins, of Colerne, Wilts, operated with the Divining Rod on land adjoining the Buxton Hydropathie Establishment, and at a eertain plaee said there was a spring. When asked at what depth, he stated about 70 feet. Twelve months ago, on the strength of the Divining Rod, sinking operations were eommeneed at the plaee marked by Mullins, whieh neeessitated blasting through limestone and blaek roek, and at a depth of 65 feet an exeeptionally strong spring of water was tapped, whieh yields 4,000 gallons per hour.

"Yours truly,

"Alexander Friend.

From H. D. SKRINE, Esq.

"Claverton Manor, Bath, 1862.

"I have employed J. MULLINS, of Colerne, Wilts, many times to seek for water on my estate, and have sunk several Wells by his advice, and have always been successful in finding a good supply, and have great confidence in his method of discovering springs."

From R. H. C. NEVILL, Esq.

"Wellingore Hall, Grantham, 1870.

"MULLINS found for me two good springs where water was thought to be scarce, having sunk to a great depth without his advice to no purpose, but found plenty of water at spots indicated by him, one Well five feet and the other ten feet from the surface."

From H. W. HOSKINS, Esq.

"North Perrott Manor,

"Crewkerne, March 9, 1891.

"I have much pleasure in stating that in March, 1888 Mr. JOHN MULLINS was singularly successful in finding water for me at a dairy farm, where from 40 to 50 cows are kept. At the spot which he indicated by his rod, nearest the farmhouse, and where he calculated that I should find water at a depth of about 25 feet, I had a Well sunk (through blue rock) 25 feet down, without any signs of water; next day, however, I heard that on going six inches deeper in the rock so strong a stream burst in that the well-sinker called out to his companion to draw him up at once, and before this was done he was four feet deep in water. This Well has continued to give about 23 feet of water out of its 25 feet in depth. I subsequently sank another Well at another spot marked by him, to supply some labourers' cottages, with equally satisfactory results. I have since recommended him to various friends and acquaintances who, I am informed, have also benefited by his researches to their entire satisfaction. He does not of course profess to find water except where there are water-bearing or rather water-flowing strata.

From G. Hancock, Esq.

"Corsham, Wilts, January, 1883.

"Our testing the powers of John Mullins as a water-finder has been rather of the negative than the positive character. We have lately sunk a number of shafts with a view to mining operations, and our desire has been to select spots where there was no water to hinder us in our sinking. Mr. Mullins has been over the ground with me, and pointed out such places. He always has been very careful to explain that in wet times we may be troubled with surface water, but that we should find no springs. In every case he has been right; but in a shaft we are now sinking, we have come to a fissure about 40 feet from the surface, and through this fissure there comes so much water that I have had to arrange a pumping apparatus in order that the men may proceed with the work.

"The ground in the neighbourhood of this shaft Mr. Mullins stated to be full of springs, and sinking our shaft below the level of the springs may have diverted the springs from their natural course. In that case there may not have been, when Mr. Mullins went over the ground, any spring, where it is now coming into our shaft. Mullins generally forms an opinion, and a roughly correct one, as to the depth of water below the surface, but he lays no claim to accuracy on this point. He says that a weak spring near the surface exerts the same influence over the twig as a deep spring of larger quantity. I have observed that after walking about for some hours he gets physically weak and exhausted, and, if I mistake not, somewhat irritable. He has told me that when he passes over a strong spring, and the twig turns quickly, a thrill runs through his entire system, and that if he follows the water-finding for several days consecutively he is unable to sleep at night.

"From what I have seen and heard of Mullins I believe him to be a perfectly honest and reliable man. It is certain that he finds hidden springs and streams of water by the means above described, but he, himself, is ignorant of the natural law, and I make no doubt it is a natural law, by virtue of whose operations there is an affinity between him and the stick, and between the stick and running water, when the stick is in his hands."

From Messrs. GEORGE COOLING AND SONS, Nurserymen.

"Seed Warehouse,

"Bath, 1872.

"The services of JOHN MULLINS, of Colerne, Wilts, have been to us of great benefit. Having sunk for water in our gardens, incurring great expense without any success whatever, ultimately we sent for MULLINS, who at once told us where we might find a plentiful supply; having sunk a Well on the selected spot we found a supply that serves us in all the houses in the gardens."

From Colonel WILSON.

"Rauceby, Sleaford, Lincolnshire,

"December, 1882.

"In reply to your letter about the Divining Rod, I can testify most strongly to its usefulness, as I am situated in a limestone county, and our village used to be so badly off for water, needing water in dry summers; and before the man MULLINS came to work for me I had spent large sums in boring for water, generally without success. I employed MULLINS a good deal, and there were sunk by his direction several wells in the parish (six or seven), which have all turned out most satisfactory. MULLINS was tested in every possible way to prove it was not owing to previous knowledge that he was enabled to point out where the water was. He was afterwards largely employed in the neighbourhood, with equal success. These results induced many people to try the plan, and I think you will find the faculty is anything but a rare one, as I could mention many people who unexpectedly found they had the same power. One gentleman, who was here at the time, told me that it was a very old practice of finding water, and that he was a settler in Canada, and he had found almost every well in his neighbourhood by the same means. My second horseman found he had the power, but disliked showing it, after a time, as I feel convinced he thought it something uncanny. I feel certain if you will only induce your acquaintances to try the rod, you will have no trouble to get many to support your investigations."

EXTRACTS FROM MR. E. VAUGHAN JENKINS'S CORRESPONDENCE

In the *Oxford Times* on the subject of the "so-called Divining Rod."

"Some time ago there appeared in a contemporary a short paragraph, which only recently came under my notice, giving the information that 'Miss Wood, a daughter of Mr. George Wood, of the Vallets, and agent for the Whitfield estates, near Hereford, had again been successful in finding water at Lugwardine by means of the (so-called) Divining Rod.' Being desirous of obtaining full and authentic particulars of this young lady's experimental operations, I addressed several specific inquiries, with special reference as to how and when Miss Wood discovered that she possessed the dowsing, or 'so-called divining' faculty, to her father, who very kindly sent me the following interesting details :—

'Whitfield Estate Office, February 4th, 1890.

'In reply to your letter of the 15th ult., I beg to say that in January last (1889) Mrs. Greathead, of Whitfield, who is sister of the late owner of the estate—C. M. B. Clive, Esq. —wrote to MULLINS, the well-known water-finder by the use of the Divining Rod, asking him to come to Whitfield for the purpose of making some trials there. Mrs. Greathead requested me to conduct MULLINS to various elevated places on the estate, which I did in company with several persons, including Mrs. Greathead herself, Mr. Percy Clive, the future owner of the estate, etc. I took MULLINS to several places where I knew there was water running *through* the earth, *but not the slightest trace of it on the surface.* I did not tell him that I knew there was water anywhere. I merely took him to the gates of the different fields and asked him to try in each case. He quickly spotted each place to a great nicety, without the slightest hesitation.

'The next thing was for each of the company to try with the rod, but not one of us had the 'faculty' excepting my little daughter May. Subsequently the rod indicated water in several places, both in the hands of May and MULLINS—May finding it first sometimes and at other times MULLINS.

'I suggested that we should not make a trial by sinking wells until the autumn, when springs here are generally very low. Well, we made a trial in November last at a spot where MULLINS said the water would possibly be found at a depth of 40 feet or 50 feet. We came on water at 40 feet. I may mention that previous to sinking this well the rod in my daughter's hand indicated the presence of an underground spring there. May is now 13 years of age. She has proved herself in numerous cases; four wells have been sunk where she said there was water, and each one was a success, viz., one at Ledbury, one at Lugwardine, and two at Whitfield. Hitherto, all her predictions have proved invariably true. Two wells had been unsuccessfully sunk at Lugwardine previous to my daughter's visit there, the deepest of which was 16 feet. The place where May indicated water is distant 42 feet from this abandoned well, and at 11 feet deep a superabundance of water was found, and pipes are now laid to convey the water to the Vicarage, which is, I believe, several hundred yards away. As regards her *modus operandi* she holds the forked hazel twig downwards when in search of water, and when she comes on a spring the twig quivers and rises upwards, sometimes from her body and sometimes towards it, until it comes to a perpendicular position. She practises the rod as you suppose, viz., as an amateur only, being only too happy to use her powers for the benefit of friends and neighbours.'

"In confirmation of the foregoing statements, the following letters received by Mr. Wood may be quoted: The Rev. Francis Curtis, rector of Coddington, near Ledbury, writes: 'The spring has been found at the stone house 57 feet below the surface, exactly at the spot indicated by your daughter. She said she thought the depth would be as much as 50 feet. So the event proves her judgment to have been very correct. We are very glad that we availed ourselves of her gifts, of which you so kindly gave us the benefit.' The Rev. A. C. Lee, of Lugwardine Vicarage, Hereford, writes: 'The well-sinker came to me an hour ago with the welcome intelligence that he had come upon a strong spring of water, at the depth of 11 feet, on the spot your daughter 'found' on Monday, which you will remember I marked with two sticks, and which was thought to have the strongest indications. I must again thank you for your kindness in coming here, and

I wish your daughter every success on similar occasions. Previous to Miss Wood's visit two wells had been sunk, but no water found.'

"In my letter of thanks to Mr. Wood I expressed a wish to be informed of the results of any future experiments that his daughter may make, and, on the 23rd February ult., I received from him the following communication:—'I have had occasion to sink a well for the use of four cottages and a public house. I took my daughter, May, to the place, and she spotted a place where she said there was water. I had it tried, and we found water at six feet deep. I instructed the men to sink six feet further down, for the purpose of holding a supply, and the water rose six feet deep in the well in one night.'

"The special interest that is attached to this young lady's phenomenal experiments and their results, consist in their undoubted genuineness (as shown by her father's implicit confidence and belief in the existence of the 'power' to produce them, that his daughter accidentally discovered herself to possess, and in her perfect integrity and purity of motive); in the total absence of any foundation for the imputation of fraud, collusion, imposture, or deception, and from their evident value in tending to confirm the claims of such operators as the respected and well-known Mr. W. L. Lawrence, of Bristol, JOHN MULLINS, of Colerne, Chippenham, and a score of others, amateurs and professionals, several of the former being persons of good social position—the knowledge of whose existence I acquired a few years ago when engaged in making a collection of contemporary evidence in relation to the use of the Divining Rod in this country. An historic interest, it may be said, is also attached to this young lady's proceedings from the fact that she is to-day unconsciously repeating in her own person the phenomenal action of the rod, in all points identical with Lady Milbanke's recorded personal and practical experiences and performances of some 100 years ago. This historical record from the pen of Lady Milbanke herself in a letter to Dr. Hutton, the eminent geologist, so accurately and circumstantially does it represent the result of modern observation that it might well have been written yesterday.

"I enclose a copy of this most interesting ancient document for your kind publication, in which it will be seen

how fully and completely Miss Wood's divining experiences of to-day harmonize with Lady Milbanke's experimental operations of one hundred years ago :—

'Lady Milbanke's Letter to Dr. Hutton.

'The following letter from Lady Milbanke, afterwards Noel, mother of Lady Byron, dated February 10th, 1805, to Dr. Hutton, the eminent geologist, describes her experiences with the Divining Rod :—'In the year 1772 (I was then nineteen), I passed six months at Aix, in Provence. I there heard the popular story of one of the fountains in that city having been discovered some *generations* before by a boy who always expressed an aversion from passing one particular spot, crying out *there was water*. This was held by myself and the family I was with in utter contempt. In the course of the spring the family went to pass a week at the Chateau d'Ansonis, situate a few miles to the north of the Duranee, a tract of country very mountainous, and water was very ill supplied. We found the Marquis d'Ansonis busied in erecting what might be termed a miniature aqueduct, to convey a spring the distance of half a league to his chateau, which spring he asserted had been found by a peasant, who made the discovery of water his occupation in that country and maintained himself by it, and was known by the appellation of *L'Homme à la Baguette*.

'This account was received with unbelief, almost amounting to derision. The Marquis, piqued at being discredited, sent for the man, and requested we would witness the experiment. A large party of French and English accordingly attended. The man was quite a peasant in manners and appearance ; he produced some twigs cut from a hazel of different sizes and strength, only they were forked branches and hazel was preferred as forking more equally than other trees ; but it is not necessary that the angle should be of any number of degrees. He held the ends of the twig between each fore-finger and thumb, with the vertex pointing downwards. Standing where there was no water, the baguette remained motionless ; walking gradually to the spot where the spring was *under ground* the twig was sensibly affected, and as he approached the spot began to *turn round*, that is, the vertex raised itself and turned towards his body and continued to turn until the point was

vertical—it then descended outward and continued to turn, describing a circle as long as he remained standing over the spring, or till one or more branches were broken by the twisting, the ends being firmly grasped by the fingers and thumbs and the hands kept stationary, so that the rotary motion must of course twist them.

'After seeing him do this repeatedly the whole party tried the baguette in succession, but without effect. I chanced *to be the last*; no sooner did I hold the twig as directed than it began to move as with him, which startled me so much that I dropped it and felt considerably agitated. I was, however, induced to resume the experiment, and found the effect perfect. On my return to England I forebore to let this faculty (or whatever you may term it) be known, fearing to become the topic of conversation or discussion. But two years afterwards, being on a visit to a nobleman's house, Kimbolton, Huntingdonshire, and his lady lamenting that she was disappointed of building a dairy-house in a spot she particularly wished because there was no water to be found—a supply she looked on as essential—under promise of secresy I told her I would endeavour to find a spring. I accordingly procured some hazel twigs, and in the presence of herself and husband walked over the ground proposed till the twig turned with considerable force. A stake was immediately driven into the ground to mark the spot, which was not very distant from where they had before sunk. They then took me to another and distant building in the park, and desired me to try there. I found the baguette turn very strongly, so that it soon *twisted and broke*; the gentleman persisted that there was no water there, unless at a great depth, the foundation being very deep (a considerable stone-cellar), and that no water appeared when they dug for it. I replied that I knew no more than from the twig turning; that I had too little experience of its powers or certainty to answer for the truth of its indication. He then acknowledged that when the building was erected they were obliged to drive piles for the whole foundation, as they met with nothing but a quicksand. This induced him to dig in the spot I first directed. They met with a very *fluent spring*. The dairy was built, and it is at this time supplied by it.

'I could give you a long detail of other trials I have made,

all of which have been convincing of the truth, but they would be tedious. For some years past I have been indifferent about its becoming known, and have consequently been frequently requested to show the experiment, which has often been done to persons of high estimation for understanding and knowledge, and I believe they have *all* been convinced. Three people I have met with who have on trying found themselves possessed of the same faculty. I shall only add one more incident. Having shown it to a party, we returned into the house to a room on the ground floor. I was again asked how I held the rod; taking one in my hand I found it turned immediately. An old lady, mother of the gentleman of the house, said that room was formed out of an old cloister, in which cloister was a well simply boarded over when they made the room.

'L'Homme à la Baguette, from the experience, could with tolerable accuracy tell the depths at which the springs were, and their volume from the force with which the baguette turns. I can only give a rough guess. In strong *frost* I think its powers are not so great, on a bridge or in a boat it has *no effect*. The water must be *underground* to affect the baguette, and running through wooden pipes acts the same as a spring. I can neither make the baguette turn where there is *no water*, nor prevent it from turning where there is any, and I am perfectly ignorant of the cause why it turns. The only sensation I am conscious of is an emotion similar to that felt on being startled by a sudden noise or surprise of any kind. I generally use a baguette about six inches from the vertex to the end of the twigs where they are cut off. I shall most probably be in London next winter, and will, if you wish it, afford you an opportunity of making your own observations on this curious fact.'

'Lady Milbanke, having arrived in London, wrote to Dr. Hutton to inform him that she purposed being at Woolwich on Friday, 30th inst. (May, 1806), at eleven in the forenoon.

'Accordingly,' says Dr. H., 'at the time appointed the lady with all her family arrived at my house on Woolwich Common, where, after preparing the rods, &c., they walked to the grounds, accompanied by the individuals of my own family and some friends, when Lady M. showed the experiment several times in different places, holding the rod in the

manner described in her ladyship's first letter above given. In the places where I had good reason to know that *no water* was to be found the rod was always quiescent, but in other places, where I knew there was *water below the surface*, the rods turned slowly and regularly in the manner above described till the twigs twisted themselves off below the fingers, which were considerably indented by so forcibly holding the rod between them. All the company stood close to the lady with all eyes intensely fixed on her hands and the rods to watch if any particular motion might be made by the fingers, but in vain ; *nothing of the kind* was perceived, and all the company could observe no cause or reason why the rods should move in the manner they were seen to do.'

From G. AUST, Esq.

"The Estate Office,

"The Rocks,

"Bath, March, 1883.

"Sir,—I was pleased to find on receipt of your letter that you were collecting proofs of the usefulness of the so-called Divining Rod, as I fully believe in its use, having known Mr. MULLINS and his family for over 20 years, and I have never known the rod to fail in discovering springs where they existed.

"I employed Mr. MULLINS in 1874 to discover a spring and sink a well for me where it is difficult to obtain good water. He crossed the field, when the twig began to move between his fingers, thus indicating a spring. He followed the course of the spring in a south-easterly direction, and on being asked how deep we might have to sink, MULLINS replied that he should judge the depth to be about 55 feet. We had to sink 60 feet, but there we found a good spring coming in just in the direction marked by the rod. Had it been coming in at any other side of the well, my opinion of the rod and its usefulness would have been lessened.

"I know of a well sunk about twelve years ago, and was closed in again as no supply could be obtained. The same year MULLINS was carrying out my work he was employed to find water, and having indicated it about 200 yards from

the well before mentioned sinking was commenced, and at a depth of 40 feet it had to be left in an unfinished state, the water having come in so fast, and has continued to be a good supply ever since. I have employed MULLINS on two other occasions with the same results. Gentlemen who have been with me would not believe in his power to find water, but having seen him, and put him to all sorts of tests, have been obliged to confess to its genuine usefulness."

From H. N. GODDARD, ESQ., J.P.

"The Manor Clyffe, Wootton Bassett,

"Dec. 20, 1889.

"Having been unsuccessful in obtaining a sufficient supply of water at one of my farms here, and having heard of Mr. J. MULLINS 'The Water Finder,' of Colerne, I was induced to give him a trial. On my meeting him on the farm in November last, he proceeded to walk over the field, near the farm premises, carrying in his hand a forked twig. On coming to a spot, the twig turning in his hand, he said this indicated water. After trying several places, he selected a spot, where he considered the spring was the strongest. I then agreed with him to commence sinking a well. A few days afterwards he began with his men, and at the depth of 36 feet, he struck a good spring. He then continued the well to the depth of 41 feet, and since then, with five feet diameter of well, the water has risen to 18 feet. I may add the sub-soil on which Mr. MULLINS sank the well is a very close black clay."

From F. T. MOTT, Esq., F.R.G.S.

"Birstal Hill, Leicester, 1882.

"I happen to be the owner of about two acres of land near Charnwood Forest, Leicestershire, 600 feet above sea level. On this land there was no spring of water, several wells had been sunk but no water found; in one case the boring had been carried to about 100 feet without success, but on hearing of MULLINS, the Wiltshire water finder, I made inquiries

respecting him, and received from a Brewer at Manchester and a large Agriculturist at Grantham such strong testimony respecting his work that I thought it worth while to send for him. Accordingly he came, a fine, sturdy, intelligent artisan with no scientific knowledge, but a frank, manly address. He said, 'If there is a spring on your ground I can find it, but my method is a mystery to myself; I have tried it thousands of times but never found it to fail.' On our way to the land he stopped at a hawthorn hedge and cut a branch in the shape of a V, about the size of a cedar pencil. When he reached the land he began by walking slowly across it, holding the ends of the twig one in each hand, until he came across what he said was a spring underneath the ground, when the twig would turn up in a half circle, and now he said, 'If you sink a well anywhere on this line you will find water and I should say you will have to sink 30 or 40 feet to find it.' Although not placing much reliance in what looked so strange a method, I yet resolved it should be tested; accordingly the well was sunk to the depth of 31 feet, and always contains six feet of good water."

From W. J. Brown, Esq.

"Middle Hill, Box, Wilts,

December, 1882.

"Sir,—In reply to yours respecting Mullins, it is about twelve years since I first employed him to find water. It was in a dry country, the only well near being about 180 feet deep, and in a dry summer it would be out of water, the supply coming no doubt from land springs only. On going over the land he traced four different weak springs, one, however, stronger than the others. In reply to my question, he said 'The depth of this spring from the surface is 110 feet.' The next thing was to discover an old well my father had found in an open quarry at the time the Box tunnel was being made. I was anxious to have the soil taken out as it had been filled in again, as I wished to see how deep it had been sunk by some unknown hands. Having found the well there was a depth of soil to get out about eight feet. Whilst this was being done there was a fall of timber underneath

and the whole thing went down 70 feet, and almost MULLINS with it. I should here state the well, which was 70 feet deep, had been covered in with timber eight feet from the surface, and thence to the top with soil, and thus the fall when it was being removed. I now contracted with MULLINS to make the depth 110 feet, thus having to sink 50 feet further, but strange to say, after sinking 40 feet, we found the spring coming in exactly where he had indicated it. The well was carried down to the depth of 111 feet to complete the reservoir, and from that time the old well has supplied twenty cottages. The next place I took MULLINS was to the Cottles Estate, near Melksham. Dr. Parfitt, the owner, a Roman Catholic priest, said he would give any money if he could discover a spring of water. Having employed MULLINS, he went all over the place, but in vain, and was leaving the place without finding water, but going from the front door with the rod in his hand it indicated a spring, which he thought would be about 18 feet deep. In a fortnight a well was complete on that spot, the depth being 20 feet. In concluding, I would say I have every confidence in MULLINS as a water-finder."

From Mr. ALFRED TAYLOR.

"Hay Hill Dairy,

"Bath, December, 1882.

"Dear Sir,—In reply to yours of 22nd respecting JOHN MULLINS and the Dowsing Rod, I am very pleased to offer you any information I can. I have known MULLINS for over 17 years as a successful water-finder, before he received scarcely any consideration for the great boon he was able to confer upon those who employed him. The first time I met him was at Mr. Gillman's, Broughton Gifford, Melksham, Wilts, where he found water, after several attempts had been made without success, and it had been declared there was no water in the neighbourhood. The spring I refer to is one of abundance, and of exceptional purity. Since meeting him there, I have several times employed him with the most satisfactory results. Lately he has been with me on two occasions, and each time pointed out and followed a course of spring water which I have obtained by sinking for, yet in

one of these plaees the oldest inhabitants have deelared that sink where we may we should obtain no water.

"As a member of the Bath Corporation, I have frequently urged the other members to vote for the employment of Mr. MULLINS, to go through the whole distriet of Hedgmead, whieh is slipping away on the east side of Bath, through the large amount of water in the hill, where we have made so many expensive unsueeessful attempts to arrest it. If MULLINS was employed, he would be able to find every spring in the hill, so that we should be able to tap them, and earry them off. I could, if opportunity offered, give yon many reasons that would admit of no doubt for my belief in this peculiar power that Mr. MULLINS and others like him possess."

From GEORGE W. JOHNSTON, Esq., Steward to LORD LINDSAY.

"Uppingham Park,

"Stamford, January, 1883.

"In answer to your letter relating to the Divining Rod, JOHN MULLINS found two springs of water for me with the aid of his rod, whieh have been tested, and both turned out satisfaetory, one in Uppingham Park. I took MULLINS into the park, and asked him to find a spring of water, which he soon did, saying it was a very strong spring, and less than 20 feet from the surfaee. I had the well sunk, and found a good supply of water at 17 feet. Fifteen of this was through blue elay, and two feet of sandstone. This spring would yield water enough to supply a village of 400 inhabitants. The seeond spring found by him was upon the site where a farm house and premises now stand. There MULLINS told me I should find a good spring at 15 feet. I sank a well on the spot marked by him through gravel, and, at 13 feet, came upon such a strong spring that, without considerable expense, I could not get any deeper. The overflow from this well filled a two ineh pipe—that is, after supplying all the requirements of the farmstead, which is 220 aeres. MULLINS pointed out several places on the estate where water could be found, but the depth would be over 27 feet, and it would not answer my requirements for farm purposes to sink beyond that depth. I may add that I have every eonfidence in MULLINS, and he has a gift that eannot be

taught, and one that everyone does not possess. There is a lady in this town (Stamford) that has the same power, which is even stronger than MULLINS. I am about to erect some stabling on an estate near here, and I shall send for MULLINS to advise as to the water supply, as I would sooner have him than any engineer. He will not lead one astray. Doubtless the practice of the 'Divining Rod' is a very old one, and of late years engineers have tried to laugh it down, but I firmly believe in the power of the rod and the honesty of MULLINS."

"Kingsdown Asylum,

"Box, July 1891.

"This Asylum was in great need of an additional water supply, and for the purpose the services of JOHN MULLINS, 'the water-finder of water-finders' were engaged, and, having found water by means of the twig, he said it would be tapped within 40 feet of the surface. We received an estimate from MULLINS AND SONS for carrying out the proposed work, and a well was sunk at the spot marked, where a good spring of water was found. The well was completed by putting in a pump, and laying on the supply to the house. The whole of the work was carried out by MULLINS AND SONS, who are practical men. The well, when complete, contained a column of water 20 feet deep, 4 feet 6 inches in diameter, thus exceeding all expectations. I have every confidence in recommending MULLINS and his SONS, who I found to possess the same gift as their father, and are well able to carry out the practical part of the work. All inquiries addressed to Mrs. Nash shall receive a prompt reply."

"Corsham, July, 1887.

"Having employed JOHN MULLINS, of Colerne, to find water on a portion of land on the north side of Corsham, where water is generally scarce, and having sunk a Well at a spot indicated by him, I have found a plentiful supply of good water, and am thoroughly convinced of his power to find water by means of the Dowsing Rod."

CHARLES F. OSBORNE, Builder.

From W. D. LITTLE, Esq.

"Estate Office, Middleton Park,

"Bicester, Oxon, August 20, 1890.

"Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter of inquiry, I have much pleasure in informing you that since August, 1884, I have had upwards of 25 Wells dug on sites where you had found springs by means of the Dowsing Rod, and in every instance an abundant and unfailing supply of water has been obtained. These Wells have been sunk on the estates of the Earl of Jersey in the counties of Oxford, Warwick, and Middlesex, and on the Charterhouse Estate in Wiltshire. I send you a copy of a paragraph which appeared in *Farm and Home* in 1885, it may perhaps interest some of your patrons to read it.

"Yours faithfully,

"Mr. John Mullins, "W. D. LITTLE.

"Colerne, Chippenham."

DISCOVERY OF WATER BY THE DOWSING ROD.

By W. D. LITTLE, Esq., Estate Office, Middleton Park, Bicester, Oxon.

"As it may, perhaps, interest some of the readers of *Farm and Home*, I venture to send a statement of the practical results of seven Wells sunk during the autumn of 1884 on the Earl of Jersey's estate at Middleton Park, near Bicester, Oxon, on sites located by JOHN MULLINS, of Colerne, Chippenham, Wilts, by means of the Dowsing Rod. I may preface the following statement by saying that the unprecedented drought of last year was most severely felt in Oxfordshire, and water had to be carted a considerable distance at great expense for several months, for all descriptions of stock. MULLINS'S search for water was made during the last week in August, 1884, and the sinking of the Wells was proceeded with as soon after as possible.

"No. 1 was sunk 22 yards from a Well sunk in 1879, which

had proved to be useless even for supplying two cottages only. At a depth of 18 feet an abundant supply of water was obtained on the spot selected by MULLINS. No. 2 was also sunk to substitute a Well made in 1879, and although in a position likely to yield plenty of water, had turned out useless. At a distance of 60 yards from the old Well, the new Well, sunk on a site selected by MULLINS at a depth of 12 feet 6 inches, yielded more water than two ordinary portable pumps would keep down, the continued drought not seeming to affect it in any way. No. 3 was a Well that had gone dry, and was deepened on the strength of MULLINS's recommendation, with a satisfactory result. No. 4, a Well sunk to supply the mansion with drinking water; it is 49 feet deep, and has an excellent spring with the water standing about 25 feet deep in the Well, the diameter of which is of large size. It is proposed to further increase the inflow of water by boring at some later period. No. 5 sunk to supply two cottages. Although situate in a district proverbially dry and badly off for water, a good supply was found at a depth of 30 feet. No. 6—this is perhaps the most remarkable Well of the seven alluded to in this notice. At a depth of 13 feet 6 inches a spring (whose existence was not even suspected) was found that has been proved, after being tested by steam pumps for several days, to yield between 20,000 and 30,000 gallons of water per diem; and this after an abnormally low rainfall during the year. No. 7—at a depth of 18 feet an abundant supply has been found, and, like the Wells Nos. 1 and 2, has been sunk to substitute a Well that cannot be relied upon."

From *The Bath Chronicle.*

"Mr. JOHN MULLINS, of Colerne, has been engaged in finding water on the Bathwick Estate by means of the hazel twig. The latter showed its customary acrobatic tendencies when in the hands of the skilful Dowser, and was in fact so violent in its gyrations that one of the limbs broke while being held. Its agitation proved that abundance of water could be found at a moderate depth at the point indicated. The twig, we may add, is to be preserved as a memorial of the incident and of the skill of Mr. MULLINS. Accordingly, it

has been deposited in one of the cases of the Moore Geological Collection, with the following certificate :—'The Divining, or Dowsing, Rod used by JOHN MULLINS on the Bathwick Estate when testing for water, in the presence of the Rev. H. H. Winwood and others, Aug. 15, 1891. 12.30 p.m. H.H.W. The portion of the twig broken off has been tied to the original stem.'

"Mr. JOHN MULLINS, the well-known successful dowser of Colerne, has added another to his long series of successes in water-finding. Captain A. K. Barlow, who recently purchased an estate near Braintree, Essex, had made several borings for water but without the desired result, and he had reluctantly made up his mind to sell the property and leave the neighbourhood; but being strongly urged by his wife and Mrs. Christie Miller, the wife of the *savant* of that name, to try the Divining Rod, he, without having much faith in the efficacy of the powers of the hazel twig, resolved to send for Mr. MULLINS. MULLINS came, and stayed the night at the house. Next morning he walked up and down a portion of the estate with a lot of hazel twigs before him, and eventually marked a spot about 250 yards from an empty well. MULLINS remarked that this spot was the very best place to sink a well, and if it were bored 50 feet a capital supply of water would be found. Captain Barlow paid MULLINS his fee and expenses, and set men on to dig a well at the place marked, and they have at a depth of 34 feet from the surface dug right into a fine body of water in a gravelly soil."

"The Rectory, Finmere,

"Buckingham, March, 1886.

"Dear Sir,—I feel I ought to write and tell you we have dug three Wells at spots indicated by you, and have found a capital supply of water in each of them. One is 6ft. 6in. deep and stands 3ft. 6in. water; the other is 25ft.—we could not go down deeper as the water came in so fast; I had a good pump put in and relays of men pumping but could make no impression on the spring.

"Yours faithfully,

"SYMINS ASHWELL."

From Thomas Franklin, Esq., Charndon Water Supply.

"December, 1887.

"Dear Sir,—I am pleased to inform you we have found water at each place selected by you at Charndon. No. 1 peg we bored 40 feet, the water has risen 20 feet; No. 2 peg we bored 27 feet, water has risen within seven feet of the top, thus giving us a splendid supply of good water.

"Mr. J. Mullins, Water Finder."

From W. Christie Miller, Esq.

"Britwell Court, Maidenhead,

"5th December, 1891.

"Mr. Mullins came to us at Broomfield, Chelmsford, in June this year, and marked a number of springs. Two Wells have been dug with great success. The depth in the first was exactly that indicated (40 feet); the direction of the spring coincided. In the second case, the depth foretold was 50 to 60 feet; water was reached about 40 feet, the spring being very strong.

"Mr. Mullins's next visit was at Kircassock, Lurgan, Ireland. Out of 17 springs marked we have so far tested two. The first well coincides in depth and quantity with his expectations. The second yielded about 50 gallons per hour at 40 feet, and is now being bored to 60 feet, the depth foretold."

From the Earl of Jersey.

"Middleton Park, Bicester,

"Aug. 20, 1890.

"I am happy to state that I have availed myself of John Mullins's services on very many occasions during the last six or seven years, and I can bear witness to the great success which has always followed his indications of the places in which water was to be found. I should not now think of sinking a well without first taking his advice."

A MOST IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

From E. G. Allen, Esq.

"Highfield, Metheringham (Lincoln).
"March 25th, 1893.

"Having frequently availed myself of Mr. John Mullins's services during the last 20 years, I can say I have never known him to fail. I have sunk six wells, two on a Heath Farm about 30 feet deep (surrounding wells measuring about 70 feet) in limestone rock, thus saving a great expense in sinking. I took him one morning to a farm which was at that time farmed by the owner, the Right Hon. H. Chaplin, M.P The well in the yard (nearly always dry) was about 30 feet deep, and water had to be led some distance from the Carr Dyke. In a few minutes, Mullins, carrying in his hand his twig, found a good spring a very short distance from the old well. A new well was sunk, and at 10 feet a splendid supply of water was found. It has never failed, and has supplied the yards, etc., with water ever since.

"Being in want of water for a large grass field, called 'Catley Abbey Field,' I went with Mullins, who placed down a peg to denote a spring. We sank a well, and bored 70 feet, obtaining a good supply of water. Being struck with a peculiarity in the taste, it was submitted to Professor Attfield, Ph.D., F.R.S., F.I.C., F.C.S., who pronounced it to be THE ONLY NATURAL SELTZER in the Kingdom. It now commands a large sale, and is probably one of Mr. Mullins's most valuable discoveries." (See Advt. annexed.)

From R. H. C. Nevill, Esq.

"Wellingore Hall, Grantham,
"December, 1882.

"Sir,—It is quite true that, acting on my friend Colonel Wilson's advice, I engaged John Mullins to search for water here, and with complete success. First, I took him to several places where I hoped water would be found, and these places would have been better situated to supply my house from, and he marked several places, but said in no case did he think the supply would be such as I required.

We then went down the hill, to a place where I had previously tried to find water, but did not succeed; and, near this spot, he indicated a spring, which he said was a very good one. We accordingly sank there, and although it was on higher ground before we got to the depth of the discontinued well, we found the spring; and on continuing to sink the water came in so strong that we had to discontinue the work till we got a steam pump to keep the water under; and, when the well was finished, it yielded 21 gallons per minute. After this, I had occasion to sink on lower ground to put a ram in, but, in going the depth of the well, we did not find any water. I myself have no doubt that MULLINS is a genuine water-finder, that the power he possesses is an agent closely allied to electricity, which enables certain persons to detect the presence of water. I may perhaps here mention that some time after MULLINS was here, we were carrying out some improvements on the top of the hill, where I first took MULLINS, and in digging down, we found one of the pegs put in to indicate water beneath, and we found a spring which MULLINS had said would be insufficient for a supply. It was a very small one, but I think a further proof that he was right in locating the spot."

THE DIVINING ROD.

From W. CRUMP, Esq., Madresfield Court, Malvern,
The Garden, April 11, 1885.

"Attention having been directed to this mysterious and apparently magical little instrument by recent observations in connexion therewith, and conversation against my will to having faith in its power, may be interesting to R.D., as well as to sceptics generally. Up to very recently, I was amongst the unbelievers in regard to it, but, upon the 13th of last month, such practical demonstration was displayed by one, JOHN MULLINS, that others and myself could not offer further resistance to it.

"MULLINS is a mason by trade, open, frank, and intelligent, without any trace of the impostor about him. He attributes his power to animal magnetism, and says that, on

some days, it is more vigorously developed than on others, and that a too frequent use of it exhausts him so much as to prevent him sleeping. He adds that when a young man, he watched a Dowser or Water Finder using a hazel twig in search of water, whereupon he was induced to try his hand, when to his great delight he found he possessed a secret influence in this direction, which so few experience.

"The rod or twig used is an ordinary branch of hazel, or white thorn, about 18 inches long, V shaped, carried between the thumb and finger in both hands, with the apex slanting downwards. The moment he carries it over a spring, or pipe of water, or any other body of water, up to the perpendicular goes the apex of the twig, and so strongly does it move that sometimes the twig will actually twist or break when forcibly held down. The electric or magnetic influence may be felt by holding his wrist. By his standing on glass, or other non-conducting substances, he becomes insulated, and the effect is lost.

"Many successes in finding water on Earl Beauchamp's estates could be named; in fact, not a single failure is known. Amongst the most recent consultations with MULLINS was one concerning a well that had been sunk 116 feet without finding water. MULLINS selected a spot a few yards distant, where, at a depth of 50 feet, an inexhaustible supply was found by him. He again selected a spot, naming water at 30 feet deep, and it was found at 27 feet. Many other instances could be mentioned, and so certain is he of his power that he offers to dig the wells without charge if proved wrong in his judgment.

"MULLINS was engaged to find some water on some estate at Madresfield last week, and on the day before his visit we prepared for him a series of severe tests. No. 1 was to send him into a field which he had never seen before, in which a six-inch socket glazed pipe drain conveyed a stream of water to supply the moat. On the surface there was not the slightest trace of this drain, the depth of which was about three feet. A party of 15 had assembled to witness these tests, and, all being in readiness, MULLINS commenced to cast about with his twig, when, to everyone's astonishment, the moment he came upon, or over the water, up went the twig to the perpendicular. He further proved the exact subterranean position of the drain again and again. No. 2 test

was similar to the last, but the pipes in this case were of iron and rather deeper. Nevertheless the result was equally satisfactory; of course every member of the party tried to use the rod, but amongst them only one young lady had any influence over it. MULLINS states that the twig or rod also rises when held over copper or gold, but silver has no effect upon it."

From WILLIAM FINNEMORE, Esq.

"Steeple Aston, Oxfordshire,

"July 14th, 1891.

"Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter of inquiry, I am pleased to say that I have since 1886 sunk four wells on sites where you had found springs by means of the Dowsing Rod, and in each instance I have found the depth of the wells very accurate according to what you told me, and a splendid supply of water in each case; and I have just sunk a well on some property belonging to me, where you marked the spring, and with going 20 feet deep we have 12 feet of water, a most splendid supply, ample for all requirements."

From H. R. P. LOMAS, Esq.

"Buxton Hydropathic, Derbyshire,

"Sept. 12th, 1892.

"Dear Sirs,—With regard to your visit to Buxton, I may say that the use of the Divining Rod on the land adjacent to my establishment was very successful. At the place you indicated, your son Joseph commenced sinking operations, and at a depth of 60 feet he tapped an exceptionally fine stream of water, which yields over 4,000 gallons per hour. The whole of the operations were conducted in a thoroughly business-like manner, and to my entire satisfaction.

"Messrs. John Mullins and Sons."

From E. H. Hills, Esq.

"Wilkhurst Farm, Leigh, Tonbridge, July 5th, 1891.

"In 1885, requiring water for farm cottages, and having had my attention drawn to the Dowsing Rod, I called in the assistance of Mr. J. Mullins, who in that year spent two days on the farm, marking the spots in his opinion, and according to the testimony of the Rod, best suited for sinking a well. These spots Mr. Mullins again checked in the summer of 1886, and one was finally selected. In the following winter a well was sunk by a local well-digger, and a good spring of water found at a depth of 81 feet, some few feet lower than the depth prognosticated by Mr. Mullins. The water rises 50 feet in the bore hole, and the supply is equal to a little over 100 gallons an hour. The Dowsing Rod in this instance quite sustained the reputation given it by its master. A short time previously a near neighbour had sunk a well several hundred feet deep without the assistance of the Dowser, but at the same time without finding any water. I was therefore quite satisfied with my experience of the 'Black Art.' Should I again wish to sink a well the first thing I should do would be to summon Mr. Mullins."

From J. Thompson, Esq., Steward to the Duke of Beaufort.

"Badminton, 1877.

"I, myself, had not been a believer in Mullins's method of finding water, but having great difficulty in obtaining a good supply I resolved to send for him and let him try. Accordingly I did so, and am now convinced, strange as the method is, it is a true means of discovering water. Having sunk a well, though deeper than he calculated, we found a splendid supply of good water."

From J. Candy, Esq.

"Ansty Estate Office, Hall Orchards, Witherby,
"May, 1887.

"The well sinkers have found water at Kenton. Depth of Well 12 feet; spring yields 20 gallons per 13 minutes."

THE DIVINING ROD.

From Francis Bastable, Esq., 14, Foskett Road, Fulham,

The Carpenter and Builder, September 30, 1892.

"Sir,—In one of your recent issues attention was called to the fact that a Mr. Mullins was busy endeavouring to discover subterranean stores of water, and had succeeded, and it was almost if not quite implied that legerdemain was employed to bring him such knowledge. By your consent I will endeavour briefly to give you an account of what Mr. Mullins did for the late T. A. Walker, contractor, on a contract at Shepton Mallet for constructing the Somerset and Dorset Railway, Evercreech to Bath.

"At the Shepton Mallet Station on that line it was decided to sink a well close to the rails to supply water for the locomotives. We had sunk a depth of 250 feet entirely through blue lias rock as dense and hard as possible, and as dry as a bone, and began to look upon it as a forlorn hope, when Mr. Mullins was mentioned as a man likely to help us in the matter. After much hesitation and fear lest it should turn out to be a hoax—we were very incredulous—it was decided to ask the advice of Mr. Mullins, who came at once, and with very little trouble discovered for us close at hand that for which we had sought so long. His mode of procedure was as follows :—He brought a quantity of twigs (hazel) apparently of one year's growth throughout and forked. These were fixed in the ground at various parts of the land on which we could operate, their movements were narrowly watched, and where the forked twigs began automatically to twist like spun yarn that spot was marked; the contortions were also notified, and then other parts were twisted in a similar manner, till at last the most favourable spot was found to be about 50 feet from our well. Mr. Mullins, from his observations of the action of this twig, advised us to commence and drive a heading about 50 feet down the well, and under that twig we should have abundance. This was done, and when at that spot our miners had to rush out and up for their lives, leaving behind them their steel drills, hammers, clothes, &c. The well soon filled up, and when we left in 1879 the water was within 12 feet

of the surface. These facts can be verified by taking a trip over this line, calling at Shepton Mallet; it is a beautiful country.

"We procured two pairs of smith's tongs to see if the twigs did actually twist, and held them in a tight grip, with one pair securing the tips and the other the fork, but the contortions still went on between the points held. What the power or science consists of I am still at a loss to conceive; but this I know, not one of us present at the operation had any doubts afterwards as to his ability in discovering water in the earth."

From F. H. Phillips, Esq.

"Chippenham, Wilts,

"15th August, 1891.

"Dear Sirs,—In these days of improved sanitation and greater attention to water supply for domestic and other purposes, I consider such a faculty as you possess, of being able to indicate the position of underground springs of water with great certainty, to be most useful and valuable, and after several years' experience of your power in this way in different parts of Wiltshire, I am able to state that I have found you very successful, and can recommend you to any one wishing to get a water supply.

"Messrs. John Mullins and Sons, Water Finders."

From C. G. Bolam, Esq.

"Estate Office, Boughton House, Kettering,

"October 29, 1889.

"Dear Sir,—A well has been dug on the spot you recommended at Cobley's Lodge Farm, and at 54 feet the water came in so strong that the men had to work all last night to keep it under. You estimated the depth of the spring at about 50 feet.

"Mr. John Mullins, Colerne, Chippenham, Wilts."

From Mr. H. Hink, Corn Merchant.

"Steeple Aston,

"August 26, 1891.

"Dear Sir,—I beg to thank you for the splendid success of finding water for me by means of the Dowsing Rod. At the depth of 15 feet you indicated we found a beautiful supply of water, then sinking the well five feet further, 20 feet altogether, we now have a depth of fully 12½ feet of water, more than sufficient for all our wants. I shall have the great pleasure of informing all my friends round here of the great blessing they may have of finding water by sending for you, and using your simple but true test in times of drought and scarcity.

"Mr. J. Mullins."

From John Stone, Esq., Town Clerk of Bath.

"Bath, 10th Nov., 1891.

"The water supply on some property I own near Bath having become diminished, I availed myself of the services of Mr. John Mullins, the 'Water Finder' of Colerne.

"Mr. Mullins walked over the ground with the 'Hazel Twig' in his hands and came upon two places where he intimated water would be found—in one place at a depth of 20 feet, and in the other place at a depth of 12 feet.

"I accordingly had sunk two wells, and at the distance indicated by Mr. Mullins in both places a plentiful supply of water was found."

From W. Wicks, Esq.

"Maisemore,

"August 16, 1892.

"Dear Sir,—I beg respectfully to inform you that the well at Whaddon is now finished, and we have a capital supply of water. In sinking a well 53 feet, under Mr. Mullins's direction, we have a depth of 30 feet of water, which is ample for all farm requirements, as well as for the cottages.

"Mr. Mullins, Water Finder."

From T. Pearman Stevens, Esq.

"Pickwick, Corsham.

"John Mullins, the Water Finder, of Colerne, Wilts, has asked me to give him a testimonial in regard to my opinion of his powers to find water with the Divining Rod, and I have much pleasure in bearing testimony (*Bis dat qui cito dat*) to the benefit I derived from following his advice. I must confess to being at the time most sceptical as to the supposed affinity of the water for influencing the direction of the forked twig in the Diviner's hands, and I determined not only to test the genuineness of the *modus operandi* to the utmost, but also to prove the result of the Diviner's first diagnosis under the altered circumstances of blindfolding him. I led him in this way over the same ground, and in one instance the affinity was so great, that, in his trying by my command to prevent the Twig from turning, one part actually broke. A well was sunk forthwith at the place indicated, with the result of a never-failing supply of water being found, clearly proving Mullins's capabilities as a water finder, and demonstrating him to be not without honour in this, his own country.'

From James Bruce, Esq., D.L.

"Manor House, Benburb, co. Tyrone, Aug. 4th, 1891.

"John Mullins and Sons were over here two or three years ago, and marked several places where they said water would be found. I have only had occasion to sink in one of these places, and the result was most satisfactory, as a good supply of water was found several feet nearer the surface than they had predicted it would be found."

From Ernest H. Brown, Esq.

"Newbold House, Clipstone,

"Northampton, March, 1881.

"Dear Sir,—Thinking you would like to know the result of your visit to this place in January last, I am pleased to tell you we found a good supply of water at 15 feet instead of 30. When we tapped the spring we could not sink any deeper as the water rose so fast. It rose seven feet, at which height it remains."

From Mrs. Margaret Trimble.

"Green Lane, Dalstone,

"Carlisle, September, 1888.

"Dear Sirs,—I wish you to know that your experiments here in seeking for water have been very successful. We sank the well 25 feet, then bored 30 feet in the rock when we tapped a splendid spring of good water, which has served all the requirements of the house since.

"John Mullins and Sons, Water Finders,
"Colerne, Chippenham, Wilts."

From Charles Clarke, Esq.

"Ashby de la Launde, Lincoln,

"November, 1888.

"Dear Sir,—Thinking you would like to know the result of the well that has been sunk at the Lodge Farm, I write to tell you it is a complete success. Having sunk 72 feet we came across a good spring; we then fixed a windmill pump, and now all our requirements are supplied, in addition to almost doubling the value of the farm, as a result of your last visit to this place.

"Mr. John Mullins, Colerne, Chippenham."

From Executors of J. J. Richardson, Esq.

"Waterford, Ireland, October, 1889.

"Dear Sirs,—You will be glad to hear of our success in the 4-inch bore-hole. Having begun at your No. 1 peg we went through 38 feet of yellow clay, shingles three feet, sandstone 39 feet, 80 feet in all, when we struck the blue slate and water rushed out; we then stopped sinking, put down a pump and worked 24 hours, and our test at the close showed a delivery rate of 1672 per hour. We could have pumped more but our pumps were not large or strong enough to make any impression on the spring.

"Messrs. John Mullins and Sons, Water Finders,
"Colerne, Chippenham, Wilts."

REPORT OF A SUCCESSFUL DIVINING OPERATION NEAR OXFORD.

Mr. Vaughan Jenkins, having applied to Mr. Gilman the owner of the new mansion on Hinksey Hill, near Oxford, for particulars of the well that was located by J. M., that gentleman replied, That the Dowsing Rod was a success, and that his architect, Mr. George Gardiner, would feel much pleasure in furnishing him with a full report of particulars on the first convenient opportunity."

From GEORGE GARDINER, Esq., Architect.

"3, Southmoor Road,

Oxford, April 12th, 1893.

"Dear Sir,—I have pleasure in replying to your letter of March 18th (and it is only through great pressure of business that has prevented me doing so earlier) with refereuce to the use of the Dowsing Rod by Mr. JOHN MULLINS. The house is situated on an elevated site iu the parish of South Hiucksey at the extreme north of, and adjoining, Bagley Wood, near Oxford. The old well was sunk immediately underneath the house, but owing to the extremely dangerous nature of the bottom of well through running sand, it had to be filled up and abandoned. We had a two feet six inches head of water, but Mr. MULLINS proved by his Rod that it was borrowed from a main spring some ten yards away. The house was built almost at the extreme height of the site.

"About Christmas time, having called upou you and acting under your kind advice, I got Mr. Gillman's permission to obtain the services of Mr. MULLINS (you having recommended him when we dug the old well). He walked between the house and summit of hill, holding an ordinary hazel twig V shaped downwards. In three minutes or even less, this twig suddenly, when crossing a spring, stood up the reverse way, and every time he passed it off, and over

the spring, it revolved, until broken, and even continued when hanging by the bark only. He followed the spring to the top of the hill, and suggested that this was the most favourable spot to sink a well, the spring being stronger, and he considered better far away from the building, drainage, &c. We sank and obtained a good supply of water at 70 feet, but no greater depth than five feet could be got, as the sand was alive with the water (experienced in the old well), and the sides of well very rotten and dangerous clay right down. We can pump some 300 gallons at a time, and of course this could be done several times during the day. Two ladies who watched the proceedings found they had the power slightly, and upon Mr. MULLINS applying his hands lightly to their wrists, the rod acted in the same way as though he held the rod himself. Only one gentleman out of some six who tried seemed to have the power, and that but slightly. I personally should not think of starting a new well (where there was any doubt) without first seeking MULLINS's advice.

"P.S.—I hold the rod, broken, and only hanging by a twisted piece of bark, that the spring was found with."

From JOHN ADAMS, Esq., Resident Engineer Cork Porter Brewery.

"Cork, April 21st, 1894.

"Dear Sirs,—I am pleased to inform you that your work here is most satisfactory. As you well remember, when you were here in October last, we could not work our pumps more than 30 minutes without exhausting the supply; but we can now, since you completed the bore hole, pump from 10,000 to 12,000 gallons per hour, and we can pump 24 hours per day continually. This, of course, will be of great service to us in this business. Wishing you the same success in any other undertaking you may be engaged.

"Messrs. John Mullins and Sons,
"Water Finders, Colerne."

From Mr. J. Hodges, Steward to S. C. Gibbons, Esq.

"Great Wallstead, Lindfield, Sussex,

"January, 1894.

"Gentlemen,—Respecting our water supply here, we are most pleased with the result, and if you should wish a testimonial I shall be glad to give it, for we have three wells over 70 feet deep quite close to the one you sank, and no water whatever, but the new well is only 40 feet deep, and has got 25 feet of water in it, which comes in at the rate of about 500 gallons per hour.

"Messrs. Mullins and Sons, Water Finders."

From Mr. J. Woolson, Builder and Contractor.

"St. Peter Street, Stamford,

"August 22, 1894.

"Dear Sirs,—Having had considerable experience in well-sinking, I have for 16 years past frequently employed Messrs. Mullins to find water for me, and I have every confidence in their method and the twig turning in their hands to indicate a spring. The first time I employed Mullins he cut a twig from the hedge, and I then took him to a place where I knew a spring was running at the time. This he found at once, and a man on either side of the twig could not hold it without its breaking. Since then I have sunk several wells by their advice, ranging in depth from 15 to 60 feet deep, in each case the depth has been very near the approximate depth given at the time of finding the water; and in every case a good supply of water was found. In one case the water was required for a large engineers' firm employing over 200 men, and at 27 feet an unlimited supply was obtained, and has held good for several years. At this time I am sinking two other wells, and shall report later on the result.

"Messrs. J. Mullins and Sons."

From Horace Smith-Bosanquet, Esq.

"Broxbornebury, Broxborne, Sept., 1890.

"I am happy to certify that Mr. Mullins has been here three times to find water, and that I have every confidence in his efficiency and honesty. The well which we have sunk under his guidance has answered capitally."

From Rev. John Geare.

"Farnham Rectory, Bishop Stortford,

"Dec. 14th, 1893.

"Sirs,—I am quite satisfied with the result of the discovery of water here by the medium of the so-called Divining Rod. Water, a good supply and pure, has been found by sinking a well at the place you indicated, and the new well is only 25 feet deep.

"Messrs. John Mullins and Sons,
"Water Finders."

WATER BY THE DIVINING ROD.

From the Rev. S. B. James, B.D., Vicar of Northmarston, Bucks, *The Daily Graphic*, March 28, 1894.

"Sir,—If 'the proof of the pudding is in the eating,' then Mr. Mullins is anything but an impostor. He told me some years ago where to dig a well, and at what depth I should find water. I dug and found as Mr. Mullins had said. He had previously found water in unexpected spots for Lord Jersey, who afterwards confirmed to me my previous impressions.

"Some schoolboys laughed at Mullins, and pretended to think his proceedings—probably really did think them—'all humbug.' Said Mr. Mullins to them, 'You try to hold the twig down when we cross the spring,' and they tried. Holding the V shaped twig down in the diviner's hands,

they walked to and fro till they reached the site of the spring, and at that spot the twig insisted upon either shooting up or breaking.

"It is of course very extraordinary, the more so because the 'gift' is generally unsuspected by its possessor till accident reveals it. But it is true, and so is Mr. MULLINS, if (as I said in homely English to begin with) *experientia docet*."

MORE PRESS EXTRACTS.

THE USE OF THE DIVINING ROD.

"An extraordinary series of experiments has been conducted on the site of the Hastings new workhouse. A point which has been warmly disputed in connection with the ground has been as to whether or not water was to be found there. It was at last decided to employ a 'diviner' named MULLINS, who resides at Colerne, near Bath, to test by the "Divining Rod" the capacity of the site in the matter of water supply. MULLINS sent exceptional testimonials, having found abundance of water by 'divining' for Lord Winchilsea, Lord Stanhope of Sevenoaks, Lord Leigh, the Earl of Dysart, the Bradford-on-Avon Local Board, &c. From the fear of drawing together an inconveniently large crowd upon the grounds, the experiments were kept very private, but the matter became known to the local Press representatives, of whom several were present, in addition to the Chairman of the Board (Mr. Winter, J.P.), the Building Committee, and the Board officials. Mr. MULLINS was apparently highly successful. His plan was to walk with a hazel twig suspended between the fingers, and when nearing 'certain' points in the ground the twig would become agitated, and twist round in the 'diviner's' hand. In order to prevent imposition several sceptical persons held the ends of the twig very tightly in their hands whilst Mr. MULLINS was experimenting, but even then it moved as usual, and in some instances snapped asunder in evading the attempts at resistance. According to the 'diviner,' there is an ample supply of water, and he calculates that at the highest points of the field there will be no necessity to dig more than 60 or 80 feet, whilst at some other points it might be found at 30

or 40 feet. The committee of Guardians expressed themselves highly satisfied with the present stage of the experiments, but the well-sinking trials will be awaited with great interest."

[Considerable interest was taken in the above proceedings, and some very spirited discussion followed the event, which continued during the sinking of the well, the climax being reached when the well was sunk to the depth of predicted spring, when water was found only in very small quantities, and from many quarters MULLINS and his rod were looked upon with contempt, and not a few used their influence to put aside the use of the Dowsing Rod. Sinking, however, a little deeper, an unfailing and abundant supply of water was obtained, this changing the current of opinion in Mr. MULLINS'S favour.]

From the *Bradford Observer*.

"The wolf of the fable who devoured the lamb for fouling the stream below him has been outdone by the Hastings Board of Guardians in its treatment of a most deserving water wizard. The Guardians, it may be said, are not represented in the light of the most fit and proper persons to fulfil their serious functions. Some people may consider that they showed lack of discretion in employing a wizard at all, but everybody will agree that they might have remembered the necessity for a water supply in their new workhouse before it was half built. Their final condemnation, however, is contained in their treatment of MULLINS, the wizard, after they had employed him. MULLINS not only called spirits from the vasty deep, but they answered to his command—that is to say, he not merely went gallivanting about with a hazel wand, but he did indicate a spot where, on sinking a well, a sufficient supply of water was found. And then, instead of cheerfully rewarding him, the Guardians complained that the water was not as good in quality as it might be! Apparently they expected MULLINS not only to feel the water with his wand, but to smell and taste it too. As the wise men of Gotham are getting a little antiquated, perhaps those of Hastings might take their place."

WATER-FINDING IN SUSSEX.

From the *Sussex Express*, February 25, 1893.

"Several houses in the village of Nutley, Sussex, have had a very inefficient water supply. Mr. Albert Turner, of The Limes, recently called in the well-known Wiltshire water-finder, Mr. MULLINS, to advise him in the matter, who after an inspection of the land in the immediate vicinity, gave it as his opinion that an ample supply of water could be obtained on the highest land in the place. Mr. MULLINS went over the land with his twig, and pointed out where strong springs probably existed, and he guaranteed to find water in abundance at a distance of about 60 feet from the surface, his arrangement with Mr. Turner being to dig the well for a certain sum, the understanding being that no payment should be made by Mr. Turner until an ample supply of water was found. Several of the neighbours assembled at Nutley to meet Mr. MULLINS, who walked with his Divining Rod, a V shaped twig, round the garden. He passed over the old well; there was no movement in the twig, and he decided that there could be no springs there. He then passed to the other side of the road at the back of the house into a pasture field on a higher level. The twig in his hands began to move when it passed, as was said by Mr. MULLINS, over running water. Several persons present attempted to hold the twig and keep it still, but were unable to do so. Mr. MULLINS was pressed to give, if he could, an explanation of the peculiar power which he and one or two members of his family possess. This, he stated, he was quite unable to do; he could only state the fact, but was unable to explain it. A contract was made by Mr. MULLINS and his sons, well contractors, Colerne, Box, Wilts, and a well, six feet in diameter, has been dug to a depth of 60 feet.

At the present moment there is about 30 feet of water in it, and it is yielding at least 5,000 gallons per day. Mr. Turner is very much pleased with the way in which the work has been carried out, and will be pleased to answer any inquiries that may be addressed to him on the matter."

From the *East Grinstead Observer*, February 18th, 1893.

"The water-finder has recently been at work on the Ford Manor Estate. Mr. B. V. Melville, being in need of more water, sought the aid of the famous JOE MULLINS, as he is familiarly called, and by the aid of his hazel or blackthorn twigs Mr. MULLINS soon marked the sites of a dozen good springs on different parts of the estate, guaranteeing that water should be found at depths varying from 20 to 40 feet. Many of the springs, he says, will yield 50 gallons per hour, and at one of them in the Park he promises water will be found at 40 feet, to the extent of 100 gallons per hour. Mr. MULLINS has also been engaged on the Grange Estate, and is going to sink a well for the Hon. A. E. Hubbard. His operations in and around East Grinstead have been watched with extreme interest by a large number of persons.

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"Two years ago in the columns of this Journal we predicted the success of the CATLEY ABBEY NATURAL SELTZER WATER COMPANY, Metheringham, Lincoln; and our prediction is more than realised. It has taken immensely, and we unhesitatingly say that it is purer and more palatable than any ordinary seltzer (whether taken alone or with spirit) we have tasted, while its fine medicinal properties have been attested to by the faculty."—*Licensed Victuallers' Gazette*, October 24th, 1890.

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